MADRAS INFORMATION

VOL. II MADRAS, 15th JUNE 1948 NO. 11

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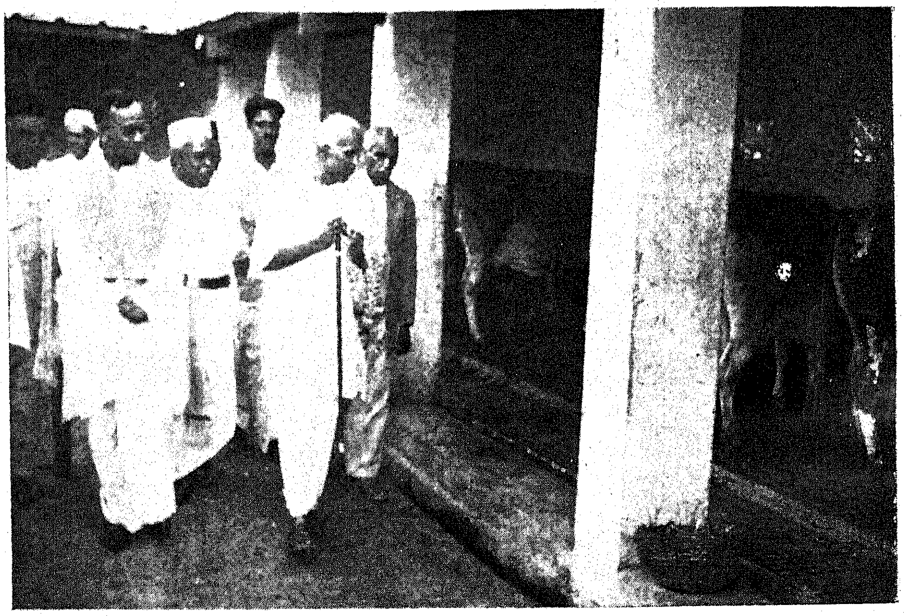
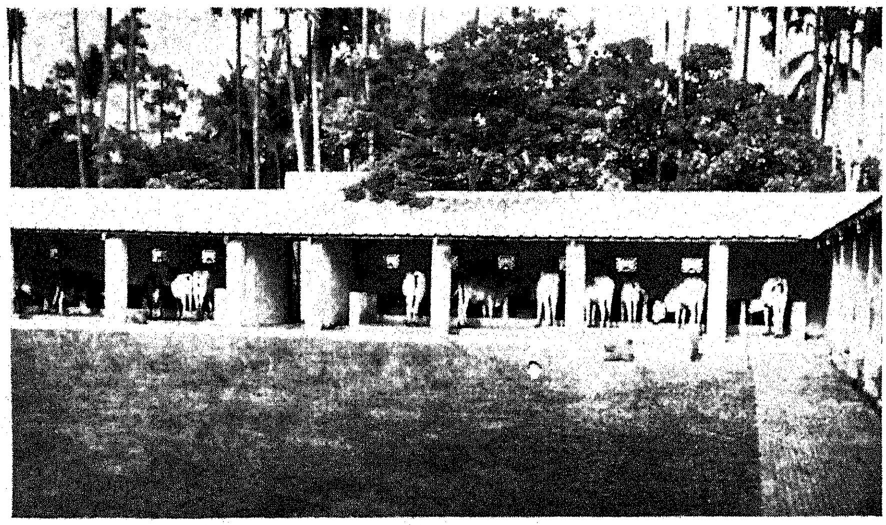
MADRAS

Dairying is a Paying Industry



Photos taken on the occasion of the Premier's visit to the Ideal Dairies, Saligram, Kodambakkam, Madras

JUN 1948
MADRAS



Cattle shed in the Ideal Dairies

Madras Information

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Fort St. George

Vol. II, No. 11 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" June 15, 1948

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL

The New Ordinance

The Public are aware of the lawlessness that has been prevailing in North Malabar, Kistna, Tanjore and certain other parts of the Province during the past few months. Recent developments in Hyderabad with the organized raids by Razakars on border areas have made the situation appreciably worse and the Government are apprehensive that unless adequate measures are taken, the situation may deteriorate further. They have therefore been constrained to promulgate an Ordinance tightening up the provisions of the Maintenance of Public Order Act.

The main provisions of the Ordinance are firstly that persons who harbour or give shelter to those against whom orders of detention have been passed will render themselves liable to imprisonment and secondly that those who print or publish leaflets, appeals, etc., purporting to be from such persons, i.e., persons against whom orders of detention have been passed, will be equally liable to punishment. These provisions have become necessary as many of the wanted men among the Communists have gone underground and are pursuing their activities from their places of hiding. Several leaflets purporting to be from leading members of the Communist Party have als
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namely, the review of each case by the Advisory Council constituted under section 3 of the Act. This Council consists of a Judge of the High Court and two eminent lawyers and they may be trusted to deal with each case having due regard to judicial principles. This Council has already been examining cases of those who have been detained.

In any enquiry before the High Court, the Government have to place all facts before the Court and such facts often tend to become public property. It thus becomes easier for subversive elements to locate the sources from which Government obtained their information and to terrorise those acting in support of Law and Order. The unavoidable publicity attended on proceedings in the High Court has handicapped the Government in tracing and dealing with subversive elements adequately. It is for this reason that the alternative remedy, i.e., applications under section 491, Cr.P.C., has now been taken away.

Agricultural Labour

A note of warning was sounded by Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya, Minister for Rural Development, recently while addressing at conference of agricultural labourers in Nellore district. He warned agricultural labourers not to be misled by Communists and not to go on strike against ryots and landlords. "The Government," he said, "would not tolerate any illegal strikes by any organization." The advice contained in his words cannot be overemphasised. The supreme need of the hour is increased production and any factor tending to hamper production has to be eliminated. For increased production in agriculture, the responsibility lies as much on the shoulders of agricultural labour as on the landlords and it will be nothing short of a breach of national duty if agricultural labourers allow themselves to be exploited by self-seekers and fail to contribute their quota for augmenting production in these critical days. When a popular Government is at the helm of affairs, agricultural labour has no reason to fear that their interest would be left unguarded. The Government are fully aware of the vital part agricultural labour plays in the economy of this Province and th lready taken
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IN THIS ISSUE

Sunset at Cape Comorin. In
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from the Anvil
Notes, Releases, etc.
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of tuition fees. These concessions are substantial and are sure to go a long way in promoting the well-being of Harijans. The Hon'ble Minister also exhorted the Harijans to support the Congress Government in their activities. He asked labourers to help Government in maintaining law and order.

Prohibition Propaganda

It is an axiomatic truth that without the co-operation of the public Prohibition cannot be a success. Prohibition is a moral reform and no moral reform can make any headway unless the people for whom it is intended feel convinced of the necessity for the reform, in the larger interests of the community. Propaganda is designed to create such conviction and thereby induce the co-operation of the people in the enforcement of Prohibition. America is a classic instance where Prohibition was tried for more than 10 years and was withdrawn afterwards. Many writers on the subject of American Prohibition agree that one of the causes for the failure of Prohibition was the lack of public co-operation. But in India such co-operation cannot be difficult to obtain because as Mahatma Gandhi observed once, the percentage of people who drink in this country is negligible compared to that in America.

The Government are devoting special attention to the propaganda side of Prohibition. Recently a plea for the co-operation of the public to make Prohibition a success when the entire province goes dry in October was made by Mr. V. N. Kudva, Commissioner of Excise and Prohibition, presiding over a meeting in the City. Mr. Kudva said that the Police alone could not make prohibition a success. It depended to a large extent on public co-operation. Another speaker stressed the fact that Madras had the honour of being the first province in India to introduce complete Prohibition and added that women could play an important part in making it a success. Yet another speaker suggested that mere propaganda was not enough and that there should be agitation, education and legislation for the success of Prohibition.

Electricity Department

The administration report of the Electricity Department during 1946–47 makes interesting reading. It is packed with facts and gives an idea of the considerable strides made by the department in the recent past. The post-war schemes of the Government involving a capital expenditure of roughly Rs. 1,755 lakhs. These schemes are being pushed through.

It is the aim of the Government to make electricity available in all the villages at as cheap a cost as possible. The major role which electricity has to play in the rural regeneration of this province is now a recognised fact and Government are taking all measures to see that electricity is made available in as many forms as possible for both industry and agriculture as well as for the promotion of rural amenities. "We may very well look for the day when "power that comes over the wire may be as common as air and as universally used."

PRESS NOTES, RELEASES, ETC.—A DIGEST

Revenue and expenditure figures

According to the Budget Estimates for 1947–48, the revenue to the Government of Madras totals Rs. 4,973·38 lakhs. Revenue Accounts to the end of January 1948 total Rs. 3,042·86 lakhs, as against Rs. 3,181·95 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1947. Expenditure on revenue account to the end of January 1948 totals Rs. 3,276·78 lakhs, as against Rs. 3,015·33 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1947.

[May 26]

Recruitment to posts of school assistant

Under the special rules for the Madras Educational Subordinate Service, as they stand, the age limit for direct recruitment to posts of School Assistants, both in the Men's and the Women's branches, is 30, and the possession of the degree of B.T. (Madras) or the degree of B.Ed. (Andhra) is one of the [illegible] appointment to the [illegible] to attract to the Education [illegible] the right type of men and [illegible] fairly young age, the [illegible] have decided to reduce the [illegible] for direct recruitment to [illegible]

given, during the period of training, a stipend of Rs. 50 each per mensem.

[May 26]

Civil Assistant Surgeons, Health Officers, etc, for de-reserved vacancies

(1) The rules relating to communal rotation and other service rules will apply to candidates recruited against these vacancies. (2) The provision [illegible] the Special Rules for the Madras [illegible]edical Service [illegible] gard to prior [illegible]xperien[illegible] rgeon or House [illegible]hysici[illegible] nt or Demons[illegible]tor, [illegible] lification for [illegible]poi[illegible] tant Surgeon [illegible] orary Civil [illegible] ying for these [illegible] candidates, who have [illegible] appointments before [illegible]948 only will be eligible [illegible] ese vacancies; they [illegible] to deduct the tota[illegible] mporary servic[illegible] he case of wa[illegible] who have als[illegible]

rendered temporary Civil Service, the orders in paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 217, Public (Services), dated 29th January 1948, will apply; (4) The record of temporary service, including experience in teaching and specialist departments, high qualifications and research work will be taken into account in making selections. In the selection for the vacancies of certain specialist posts, candidates with the specialist qualifications, training or experience noted therein, will be given the first preference, and other candidates will be selected for these vacancies only to the extent candidates with the necessary specialist qualifications, training or experience are not available.

[May 27]

Grant to aided secondary schools

In their Order, dated 10th May 1947, the Government undertook to pay to the managements of aided secondary schools, which did not adopt at least the revised scales of pay fixed for teachers in secondary schools under local bodies, a special grant calculated at one-half of the difference between the average of the scales of pay actually adopted by the managements and the average of the scales of pay laid down for similar posts under local bodies, subject to the condition that this additional amount was used entirely for payment to the teachers. The intention was that teachers in those schools should not be placed at a disadvantage, compared with those schools where revised scales of pay have been introduced. As the order was issued only in June 1947, any decision by the managements to adopt regular time-scales of pay in cases where no such scales were previously in force, would have been taken only subsequent to the issue of the order referred to above. As additional expenditure, if any, on account of the adoption of the time-scales of pay retrospectively from 1s January 194 ... ve been only on or ... Government of ... 1947 that ... 1946–47 and ... April 1947 ... assessed only ... the net cost, as was ... years. This order has ... the previous orders on th...

The Government a... question of makin... those manageme... adopted at leas... of local bodies...

question, and orders in this regard will be issued, as soon as information has been obtained regarding the managements which had adopted the revised scales of pay, and those which had not, and regarding the dates from which the revised scales of pay or any other time-scale of pay had actually been adopted by them.

[May 27]

Reorganization of Secondary Education

The Government have passed the following orders :—

(1) With regard to the opening of separate technical high schools they have decided that it would be sufficient if the diversified secondary school courses are introduced in the existing high schools providing for literary or academic courses. They have therefore sanctioned the introduction of certain bifurcated courses of studies in selected high schools commencing from Form IV in the current year.

(2) With regard to the abolition of optionals in high school classes, the Government have decided that optionals be abolished in high school classes. This will come into effect from 1949–50, as the reorganized courses will be begun in the IV form from the year 1949.

With regard to the position of various languages the Government have considered the recommendations of the Provincial Advisory Board and of the Universities. They have decided that as Hindustani is to be taught from Form I, it will be sufficient if English is taught in Forms II to VI. On the question of the study of Hindustani and of Sanskrit and other languages in future, the Government, after reviewing the recommendation of the Provincial Advisory Board, have decided as follows :—

(i) that Hindustani should be ... in Forms I to III instead of in ... IV;

... that students should be ... option to take Hindustani, ... er classical language ... Arabic or Persian ... I to ...

(iv) that the study of Hindustani or its alternative in Forms I to III should be compulsory in Andhra, Kerala and Karnataka but optional in Tamil Nad. In Tamil Nad unless the parent expresses his wish not to exercise the option for one of the languages in the group, it will be presumed that the boy has exercised the option if he attends the class for any of the languages. Examinations will be held for these languages also. In Forms IV to VI pupils will have the option to study in addition to the regional language a second language such as Hindustani or Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic or Urdu or any foreign language, and in the case of those students the regional language should be taught for four periods in a week and the other selected language for four periods and that those who want to take the regional language alone should take eight periods in that language. Pupils will be permitted to study a language different from the one studied by them in Forms I to III provided their attainments in that language are up to the standard.

(v) The Government have accepted the recommendations that formal, moral and religious instruction should be avoided without prejudice to the existing provision for religious instruction under a conscience clause. In schools specially intended for Muslims religious instruction will be regulated with reference to G.Os. No. 1727, Education, dated 22nd September 1933, and No. 266, Education, dated 7th February 1948.

The Government have considered that it is very necessary to have citizenship training and accordingly direct that it should be made a part of the school curriculum. The syllabus for Forms I to VI has been prepared and will be approved separately.

The Government consider that education in Forms I to III of Secondary schools should be a natural continuation of Basic Education in the Elementary Schools and ... the curriculum of studies ... I should be ...sed ... ing

The other subjects to be taught in Forms I to III will be the first and second languages, from Form I, third language (English), from Form II, Mathematics, General Science, Social Studies, Citizenship Training, Arts, Physical Education and religious and moral instruction. The Director of Public Instruction is authorized to finalize the syllabuses in these subjects.

[May 30]

Staff in Aided Educational Institutions

The Government have decided that the revised rates of dearness allowance allowed to Government servants from January 1, 1948, should be made applicable to the members of the staff in aided educational institutions and have directed that the managements of aided educational institutions should be permitted to pay dearness allowance to the staff at the revised rates with retrospective effect from January 1, 1948, and that the expenditure incurred by them on payment of allowance at rates not exceeding the revised rates should be taken into account in assessing the teaching grants payable to them for 1948-49 and subsequent years.

The grant will be limited to one-half of the expenditure incurred on payment of dearness allowance to the staff of educational insitutions aided under the Grants-in-Aid Code, and will be payable only to those institutions which worked at a deficit. The arrangement referred to above will be enforced so long as the scheme of dearness allowance for Government servants is in operation.

[June 1]

Training in the use of Fire-arms

In their order, dated February 26th, 1948, the Government had directed that Police officers should, to the extent to which their duties permitted, help suitable gazetted officers of the Government to familiarize themselves in the use of fire-a[illegible] that licensees, who have [illegible]munition, may [illegible]ainin[illegible] of Police in the City have been directed to take into consideration the existing conditions in the locality, and determine the suitability of the officers for training in the use of fire-arms.

[June 1]

Bifurcated Courses in Secondary Schools

The question of opening Trade Schools is being examined and orders will be issued separately. In regard to Technical High Schools, the Government do not consider it necessary now to establish separate high schools and they consider that the purpose will be substantially served if these technical courses are provided in the existing high schools which provide academic courses and that the diversified courses may be introduced from Form IV, as recommended by the Board. The Government have decided that to begin with the following courses of studies would be introduced in 50 selected high schools from the school year 1948-49 and that the question of extending the system to other high schools should be taken up later :—

(1) Secretarial.
(2) Engineering.
(3) Agriculture.
(4) Drawing and Painting.
(5) Domestic Science and Cookery.
(6) Music and Dancing.

"Teaching Practice" will also be one of the varied courses to be introduced under the new scheme. The question of introducing this subject in 1948-49 is under consideration. Other subjects will be added as and when necessary.

The draft syllabuses for these courses will be placed before the B[illegible]ard of Secondary Education and finalized shortly. The S.S.L.C. scheme will also be amended embodying the re[illegible] syllabuses. Pupils taking [illegible] mic courses will move on to [illegible] courses as they do, at pres[illegible] the intention that pupils t[illegible] [illegible] courses should [illegible] wis[illegible]o do s[illegible]

pupils taking the Engineering courses under the scheme would not only be eligible but would be preferred for admission to the Polytechnic courses appropriate to the particular subjects chosen by them under the bifurcated scheme. It has been decided also that the Secretarial course will alone be the primary qualification for appointment to posts of lower division clerks and similar post in Government service except that this would not preclude Government from fixing higher qualification for such posts in any department or office where the special nature of the work requires it. However, until the Secretarial courses are opened in a large number of schools in the Province, the number of candidates who have undergone the Secretarial course may not be sufficient to meet the demand ; when candidates who have undergone the course are not available, others will continue to be appointed to service as at present.

Teaching Grants

With a view to enable local bodies and the managements of aided secondary schools to meet the extra cost involved in the organization of the new courses, the Government have decided that teaching grants should be made as a special case calculated at three-fourths of the net cost of running the courses during the preceding financial year subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,450 per annum to each school for a period of five years from the introduction of the courses and that the question of revising the arrangement should be considered at the end of the period.

[June 1]

Adult Lit[illegible]y Campaign

As a part of their adult literacy campaign, the Government propose to invite authors to present continuation [illegible]ading books in Tamil and Telugu [illegible]y new lit[illegible]s. The best of [illegible] of t[illegible]n each lan[illegible] the Govern[illegible] These will be [illegible]heap cost to [illegible]vernment

[illegible] the books should be [illegible] be highly appealing [illegible]he language at once [illegible]matic. The manu[illegible]h the Director of [illegible] or before the

Educational Concessions

I

In G.O. No. 1954, Education, dated 6th September 1947, the Government directed that children and dependents of ex-service personnel would continue to be eligible for the educational concessions admissible to them, even after the death of the ex-service persons on whom the concession-holders were dependent, provided that they were otherwise eligible for the concessions. A question has now been raised whether the concessions may be granted also to those who apply for the first time only after the death of the ex-service personnel in virtue of whose military service the concessions are claimed. The Government direct that the concessions be granted in such cases also provided that the applicants are otherwise eligible for the concessions.

[June 4]

II

The Government have issued certain orders clarifying and amending the conditions under which educational concessions to the children and dependents of the Defence Services Personnel are granted.

The dependents of those who died otherwise than in action while in military service will also be eligible to the concessions.

The question has been raised whether the wives of ex-service men who married after their discharge are eligible for these concessions. The Government direct that these concessions be granted to the wives of only those personnel who had got married on or before 28th February 1947.

It has been stipulated that the educational concessions will be withdrawn from those who stay for more than two years in one and the same class but will be regranted on promotion to the next higher class. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that in applying this instruction to medical colleges where University examinations are held twice a year, a student is enabled to appear four times in one and the same University examination. As this was not the intention of the rule the Government have directed that in so far as medical colleges are concerned, the concession should be withdrawn from those who fail twice in one and the same subject at the University examination.

These concessions were originally meant to be available only for Madrasis and only in the schools and colleges of this Province. They were extended in the year 1944–45 first to those students belonging to the Central Provinces and Berar and thereafter to those belonging to other provinces and local administrations except Bombay, reading in the educational institutions of this Province provided they would have been eligible for similar concessions provided by the Provincial Government or Local Administration concerned. An understanding had also been reached that Madrasi students, if eligible for concessions in this Province would be entitled to the concessions admissible in the other provinces, should they have to carry on their education there. The Government of India have since stated that certain Indian States are also agreeable to enter into similar reciprocal arrangements with this Government. The Provincial Government have, therefore, decided that the concessions in question be granted to students belonging to such Indian States subject to the same conditions as are laid down in the case of other Provincial Governments.

The States with which such a reciprocal arrangement has been entered into are mentioned in an appendix to the Government Order issued on 6th April 1948. [June 7]

DEPARTMENTS' CORNER

Labour Department

The Government have appointed the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Madras, to be conciliation officer for the purpose of mediating in and promoting the settle[illegible]t of industrial disputes in the whole of the Madras Province.

The Government have also accepte[illegible] the interim award of the Industri[illegible] Tribunal, Mad[illegible] in respe[illegible] dispute betwe[illegible] management[illegible] Sembiam an[illegible] Governmen[illegible] of the Indu[illegible] in the disput[illegible] the managament [illegible] Mills, Coimbatore.

The Government hav[illegible] interim award of the [illegible] nal, Madura (for[illegible] dispute between [illegible] managements of [illegible] Pernambut and [illegible]

The Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union, Coimbatore, has formally called off the general strike in the Coimbatore Textile Mills. It is reported that all the mills have been worki[illegible]g smoothly.

[*First Fortnight of May* 1948]

[illegible]ucation Department

[illegible]*ion.*—The Government have [illegible]hat all the Elementary Schools [illegible] now under the control of the [illegible]ss of Girls' Schools should be [illegible]d to the District Educational [illegible]

Basic Education.—The Government have sanctioned during 1948–49 the conversion of seven of the existing Training Schools into Basic Training Schools.

The Government have approved the proposal of the Director that teachers holding Basic Training Certificates issued by the Hindustani Talimi Sangh after their training at Tiruchengodu or Kanelipuram and possessing no general education certificate or having certificates of less than III form or VIII standard may be treated on a par with the Lower Elementary Grade trained teachers for all purposes.

The G[illegible]lso per[illegible]itted the H[illegible]achers [illegible]ion

Secondary Schools under the reorganization scheme the first certificate course for citizenship for teachers in Secondary Schools has been started on the 6th May 1948 at the Teachers' College, Saidapet. One hundred and twenty teachers have been selected for the course. The course will last for 15 days.

Resettlement Activities

As a subsidiary measure to facilitate the resettlement of ex-servicemen in civil life, the Employment Exchanges helped 2,490 ex-servicemen, between December 1946 and March 1948, to secure yarn quota from the Regional Textile Controllers, with a view to enabling them to set up their own handlooms. As a general rule each ex-serviceman entitled to yarn quota was permitted to set up only one loom to be worked by himself.

An Appeal

The National Government of India have organized a new Museum known as " The Fort Museum " in the City of Madras, with the specific object of collecting together, for public display and enlightenment, all vestiges and relics bearing on the evolution of this Province from the days of the East India Company.

There is no doubt that specimens of old arms, armour, dress, pictures, wood carvings, etc., are still held as private collections in the ancient houses of the nobility which remain a sealed book to the general public.

The Museum authorities take this opportunity to request all individuals and institutions in possession of such relics to offer them to the Museum for permanent display and preservation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Leather Industry in India

The important role played by leather industry in India's national economy was brought out in a speech delivered by Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director, Scientific and Industrial Research, while requesting the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji to lay the foundation stone for the building of the Central Leather Research Institute at Madras. He said :

" The leather industry plays an important role in India's national economy. India has the largest herds of cattle in world—about 180,000,000 cows and oxen, 50,000,000 buffaloes, 46,000,000 sheep, 58,000,000 goats and 2,000,000 of other kinds ; and her e[illegible]imated leather production which inc[illegible]de 20 million cow hides, 5·7 mill[illegible] buffal[illegible] [illegible]·5 million goat skins [illegible] [illegible] ranks the [illegible] [illegible] Cess[illegible]

The Province of Madras occupies a singular position in India's leather industry. Twenty per cent of the cows, 25 per cent of the buffaloes, 25 per cent of the goats and more than half the total number of sheep in the whole of India are reckoned to be in this Province. Madras is also rich in vegetable tanning materials such as *tarwar* or *avaram, amalatas, babul myrobalans, mangroves, divi-divi,* etc. Recently wattle cultivation has also been introceddu with good success though it is not yet sufficient to meet the deman[illegible]. The skill of the Madras tanner is world renowned and the preparation of half-tanned hides is a unique speciality o[illegible] this province. Ninety-five [illegible] of hides and 85 per cent of [illegible] ported from India are sent [illegible] Madras.

Need for a Leather Research [illegible] in India

deal to science ; scientific methods are being applied to it to an ever increasing extent effecting continual progress in the techniques of production. To develop and maintain the Indian leather industry in the forefront of progress demands, in the face of world wide competition, ready access to new discoveries in science which are the raw material of all new development. This being so, a national research effort adequate to produce these basic discoveries must be there.

Scope of the Institute

Hides and skins to be converted into leather have to go through the following general operations: soaking, liming, deliming, bating, pickling, tanning and finishing. These include a number of detailed operations making the whole process highly complicated. Each operation alters the skin physically as well as chemically ; and chemical, bacterial and enzymic reactions, influenced by temperature, concentration, acidity or alkalinity, age of the liquors and period of treatment, play great part in these operations.

The chemistry of leather manufacture is so complex that in order to understand it one has to possess a good knowledge of chemistry, physics, bacteriology and physiology. Nowhere is the need for research so essential as it is in these complex processes, the full understanding of which still defies the scientist in spite of rapid advancements made during the last few years. The industry elsewhere has advanced rapidly by the application of scientific methods in controlling these processes by introducing mechanized forms of production and by standardizing the physical properties of leather required by the consumer by means of approved physical tests. Revolutionary changes have been intr[illegible]ced in the use of materials in l[illegible]ing, bating, tanning, dyeing fat liquoring and other processes. [illegible]quipment and machines have been [illegible]eveloped for operations such as un[illegible]iring, fleshing, scudding, drying and [illegible]

[illegible] o the leather [illegible] ed under the [illegible] fundamental [illegible] arch ; and [illegible] including [illegible]

[illegible] eather industry has [illegible] problems, big and small, [illegible] uture prosperity depends. [illegible] aver progress was [illegible] individual firms [illegible] Leather Research [illegible] the focus of all [illegible]

Economic Commission for Asia and Far East

NOTE.—*The session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East at Ooty has focussed considerable public attention on this organization. In our last issue, we published certain background facts on this subject. Since then, Dr. P. S. Lokanatham, Executive Secretary of the Commission, has, in the course of a broadcast dealt more elaborately with the constitution and functions of the Commission. He said*:

"This Commission was set up in May 1947 by the Economic and Social Council in response to an intense desire on the part of the United Nations to promote rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economics of countries damaged and destroyed by the war. A Commission for Europe was set up and simultaneously, also a Commission for Asia and the Far East, with its temporary offices at Shanghai in China. The territory within the scope of the Commission is very extensive and covers the area from Pakistan in the west to China in the east, and includes Pakistan, India, Burma, Ceylon, Siam, Indo-China, Malayan Union and Singapore, Hongkong, Indonesia, the Philippines and China. Japan and Korea are not part of the territory within its scope but the Commission has been asked to establish working relations between the Allied Control Authorities in these countries in so far as their economics are of significance to the economy of Asia and the Far East. Membership of the Commission, however, is differently constituted; only those countries of the region which are full members of the United Nations are members, that is to say, India, China, the Philippines, Siam, and more recently, Pakistan and Burma. Australia, and more recently, New Zealand were admitted as members because of their geographic relation to the problems of the Far East. The United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands are members by ... of their politic... relations to som... ...ies of ... region. The U... U.S. ... are also mem... dominant i... welfare of the...

Functio...

The functions allotted ... mission are indeed ve... important; the Comm... ...sked to initiate ... ...neasures for fa... ...ction for the eco... f Asia and the ... raising the level of economic activity; in other words, to take all measures to stimulate and inspire action, to raise the standard of living of the hundreds of millions of people who live in these countries. The Commission has also been asked to make investigations and studies of the economic and technological problems and undertake the collection of economic and statistical information which is necessary for the work of the Commission. The sense of urgency which should inspire the Commission in its work has been indicated by the fact that the work of the Commission is to be reviewed at the end of three years, and hence the Commission is expected to make an immediate contribution to the rehabilitation and restoration of the war-damaged economics of this region and to promote reconstruction.

A Retrospect

Since the Commission was constituted, it has met twice; the first meeting at Shanghai was essentially of a preliminary and preparatory character. It directed the Secretariat to make a factual study of the requirements of the region in respect of essential reconstruction needs such as food, seed, fertilisers, textiles, raw materials, industrial and transport equipment, coal and other fuel. In making those estimates, the Secretariat was asked to find out how much could be met from domestic and regional sources and how much will have to be imported from abroad. On the basis of the study which was undertaken by the Secretariat, the Commission was able to make more precise recommendations when it met at its second session in Baguio in the Philippine Republic in November last. That meeting marked a decisive stage in the career of the Commission. It laid out ... broad lines of programme for ... In the first place, it invited ...nd Agriculture Organization ...mmediate attention to the ...of food and other essential ...nts of the region, and to ...roper ... agricul... them wherever possible, and to give special attention to their technological and financial aspects and make concrete proposals for the financing of those plans which are regarded as significant to development. While there are specialized agencies operating over the whole world in the fields of agriculture, labour, finance and credit (e.g., FAO, ILO, the Fund and the Bank), there is no specialized agency concerned with industrial development as such, and therefore the Commission in establishing a working party for making recommendations regarding the industrial development of this region, has taken a very essential step and filled a gap. Thirdly, the study of reconstruction needs in these countries has revealed the inadequacy of technical personnel for reconstruction purposes in every country and hence the Commission has recommended the establishment of machinery which will give impetus to the creation of training facilities in the region and also assist these countries in getting expert assistance from abroad. Another recommendation which was adopted at the last meeting was the setting up of a working section under the Secretary to promote inter-regional and international trade in the region. Since most of the countries suffer for lack of foreign exchange, any step intended to promote exports would automatically increase the capacity to acquire necessary imports, thereby assisting reconstruction. Finally, the Commission, impressed by the damage caused by unregulated floods of the rivers of the region, has recommended the setting up of a Bureau of Flood Control to assist Asian countries in regulating and controlling water.

The Future

The reconstruction and development of Asia requires large expenditures and fullest utilization of all available resources. For this purpose every country must put forth its best, and hence national and regional efforts must remain th... ...f all developmental ... ...theless, it is clea... ...t of...

of utilising Japan's industrial capacity for the development of the rest of Asia should be fully explored and utilised. The Working Party has also recommended the setting up of *ad hoc* committees to assist in its work of estimating the need in respect of finance, transport, fuel, basic materials, etc. When these studies are completed they will form the basis of a blueprint for the economic development of this vast region.

Some of the countries in Asia are not yet free and self-governing. Even those that are free are not necessarily members of the United Nations and hence not qualified to become full members of the Commission. Nevertheless it was rightly felt that unless these countries were associated in an intimate way in the work and activities of the Commission, the Commission would suffer from a lack of realism and understanding. Hence at the last meeting the device of Associate Membership was adopted and non-self-governing countries were admitted as associate members sponsored by the metropolitan powers which were responsible for their international relations. Thus, Ceylon, the Malayan Union and Singapore, Hongkong, Cambodia and Laos were admitted as associate members. At this meeting at Ooty the question of admitting Indonesia will be taken up.

The countries of Asia have for centuries had spiritual, religious and cultural bonds but at no time in their history did they ever have a chance of coming together to discuss common economic problems of vital importance to them. The Asian Relations Conference inaugurated by Pandit Nehru in March last year was the first step on an unofficial level in bringing the countries together, but it has been left to the United Nations to bring together these countries on an unofficial governmental level at which accredited representatives of the governments can come together to discuss their common problems and take concerted action for solving them. There is no impairment of national sovereignty because it is one of the basic principles of the Commission that no action will be taken in respect of any country without the concurrence of the Government of that country. Nevertheless, the fact that decisions are taken with the approval of the participating governments in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill is an assurance that whatever recommendations are adopted by the Commission will be implemented by them. Again, although the Commission is not an operational body in the sense that it cannot directly undertake projects of development, there is nothing to prevent it from recommending to governments to set up institutions for the development and execution of such projects. The steps that the Commission is already contemplating to take in the field of technical training, trade promotion, flood control, and above all, in industrial development, are all such as are bound to promote the development of this region. The Commission cannot of course compel any country to assist in the task of reconstruction but it can do a great deal by bringing into focus the urgent problems of Asian economy, by pointing out that in any plan for the reconstruction of the world, this region where live more than half of the world's population, cannot be ignored and that it is to the interest of the more advanced industrial countries themselves to assist these countries in their efforts towards reconstruction and development."

By courtesy—A.I.R., Madras.

Increased Food Production

Production, more production and maximum production is the slogan now. Increa... production has been describ... ...ty in the pr... ...sidered ho...

fruits. A war, an increasing ... without an increasing foo... and unfavourable seasons, ... combined to produce an exc... acute food shortage. Attem... been made to tackle it throu...

reorientation of our national agricultural, industrial and economic policies, in improving agricultural production and simultaneously increasing the purchasing power of the masses so that they can afford the necessary energy giving and protective foods at a price level which will foster agriculture as a competitive occupation.

3. Protective foods like eggs, milk and meat are luxury articles of agriculture, the production of which requires several times the area necessary for raising cereals giving the same amount of food energy. As the area of profitable cultivation in the province is limited, no general improvement in the nutritional standards can be brought about unless the yield of cultivated land is increased appreciably.

4. The problem of improving agricultural production is a complex matter involving not only agricultural technique but also different aspects of our social and economic life such as systems of inheritance, tenures, transport, marketing, credit, etc. All the various forces that tend to adversely affect agriculture, have to be surveyed and eliminated. The farmer's problems are really the nation's problems and the state has to step in to create the necessary atmosphere for stimulating the maximum of economic production from every acre of land.

Factors in Production

5. Granted all this, agricultural production itself is an uncertain element. It is a function of different variables such as manures, soils, cultural practices, seeds, water-supply, climatic conditions, pests and diseases and other environmental factor each of which may be as important as any of the others depending on the quantity, time and duration of its incidence in the several stage of plant gr...th. In the present state of our knowledge, some only of these variables can be changed for the better. I shall confine myself in this ...alk to soil fertility and organic manures ...hich are fundamental factors affecting ...od production a... suggest tackling ...em thr... ...ich are within ...e powe... ...ivator..

...red that the ... It is a dyna-... subject to constant ...ical and biological ...n essentially determine ... The soil is the home of ...micro-flora whose vital ... disintegrate the ...an animal matter ...ious mass called ... slowly change...

by other bacteria with the incidental formation of plant nutrients like ammonia and nitrates. There is a constant resurrection of dead matter which goes on continually in the soil under favourable conditions.

7. The presence of humus in sufficient quantities in the soils ensures among other things the requisite conditions necessary for crop production like proper tilth, temperature and aeration. The soil retains moisture better and there is considerable biological activity leading to a steady and balanced supply of plant nutrients. The first task of a successful farmer is, therefore, to keep up the life cycle in the soil and maintain and improve its humus content. Unfortunately the soil in our country is in general badly deficient in humus as the tropical sun depletes the soil of its organic matter. The unmanured land depends on the rotting of weeds and roots of the previous crop for its humus content and this in turn leads to the formation of just enough plant nutrient to keep up a low-turn. The chief manurial problem in India is, therefore, not merely the deficiency of nitrogen as observed in the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. It is the deficiency of humus and nitrogen. Of these nitrogen can be synthesised but humus has to be grown.

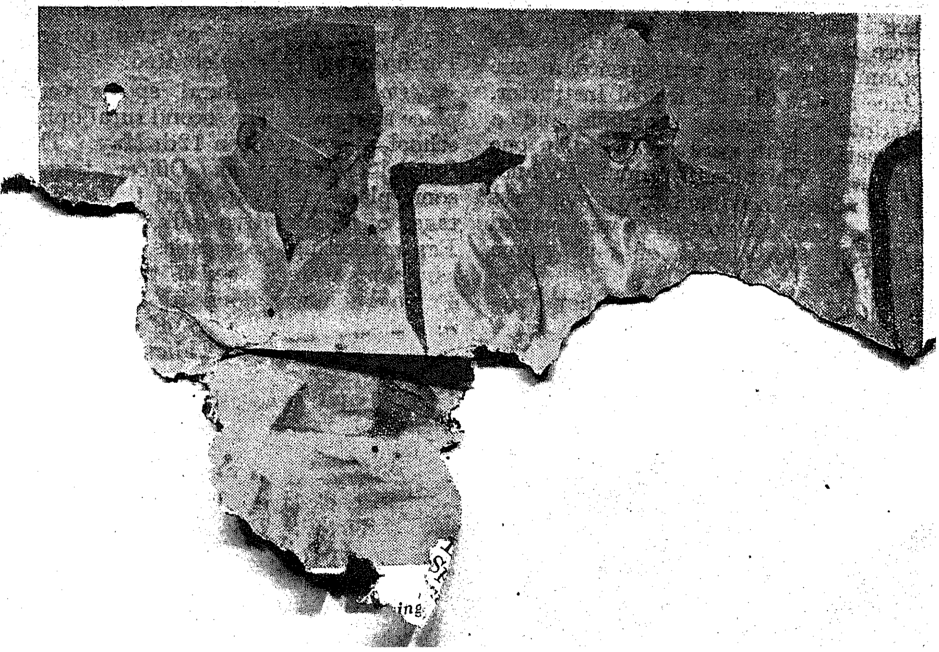
8. Humus production and crop production cannot go on simultaneously in the same land in the absence of sufficient moisture and nutrients. Humus has, therefore, to be produced separately before applying it to fields on which rainfed crops are raised. All organic matter can be converted into humus with the help of soil bacteria by composting it in shallow pits not more than 2 feet in depth. For this purpose the leaves and agricultural wastes are placed in pits and moistened with the addition of wood ash and a small quantity of cattle dung mixed with water. The contents of the pits should be turned over after fifteen days and once a month thereafter. Artificial farm yard manure can thus b[illegible] roduced in thr[illegible] time. Such careful husband[illegible] ic waste the secret of [illegible] Chine[illegible] rmers who [illegible] fertilit[illegible] f their soil [illegible] ly hi[illegible] vel for over four[illegible]

9. In respect of [illegible] nds, the problem is [illegible] reen leaves and organic [illegible] pplied directly to the [illegible] erable experiments [illegible] ural Research Sta[illegible] nds all over the M[illegible] shown that green leaves constitute the main bulky organic manure needed for paddy fields. Application of green leaves ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 pounds to an acre has increased the yields of paddy from 25 to 45 per cent. For this purpose quick growing shrubs have to be raised all over the country-side, along the sides of roads, railways, canals and tanks, on waste lands and in all places which are not put to a more profitable use. Green manure crops like Sunnhemp, Daincha, Sesbania Speciosa, etc., should be grown on paddy lands wherever possible after the harvest of the paddy crop. An acre of Sesbania Speciosa may yield as much as one lakh of pounds of green matter in five months sufficient to manure 25 acres of paddy fields. A Glyricidia stump planted on a canal or field bund will produce 40 lb. of leaves in the first year and 300 lb. every year after three years. Unless we produce more leaves and organic matter and apply them directly to wet fields or compost and use the artificial farm yard manner on dry fields, there can be no permanent solution of the food problem. Every ryot has therefore, to take up seriously the production of more plants, shrubs, leaves and green manures in every possible area without detriment to his cultivation. Where green manures can be raised on the fields, the ryot has to learn to produce his seed requirements by setting apart, if need be, a part of the cultivated land for the purpose. If by sacrificing one cent of land to produce green manure seeds, sufficient green manure can be raised on an acre and thereby the yield of paddy can be increased by over 20 per cent, surely this sacrifice of one cent is worth it. If by planting 15 cuttings of Glyricidia on the bunds of paddy fields, the ryot can get his manure on the spot, surely the practice should be taken up at once.

Importance of Manure

10. In order to intensify production every farmer has to learn to be a chemical manufacturer employing countless millions of bacteria as willing workers in his field factory. Increased food production depends largely on increased production of manures and the possibilities are very great as nearly 80 per cent of the cultivated lands is not manured at all. Substantial increase in the acre yields, leads to greater output of cereals. More cultivated lands can then be released for larger production of protective foods and industrial crops so essential for a balanced abundance in the country. The Madras Department of Agriculture has started an allout drive to plant quick growing shrubs, to spread green manures and to collect and supply free to all ryots seeds and plant materials of several trees of economic importance. Once the cultivators' enthusiasm is roused and his co-operation secured, we can confidently hope for striking progress towards the solution of our food problem."

—By courtesy—A.I.R., Madras.



PROHIBITION PAGE

The following is a brief summary of the reports received from Prohibition districts on ameliorative activities. The reports relate largely to the activities during May 1948 :—

Tanjore.—Thrift day was inaugurated in five villages and thirty hundi boxes were distributed. Four palmyrah jaggery co-operative societies have started functioning and twenty one licences were issued to ex-tappers.

North Arcot.—One village grama sangham has decided to purchase a site for a village community hall and has collected funds for the purpose. Thrift campaign was launched in some places. Public meetings were convened in this connexion and speeches were made stressing the benefit of savings. Twenty hundi boxes were issued to members and non-members in two villages. One grama sangham has decided to construct a village community centre at a cost of Rs. 7,000.

Chittoor.—Rural games were conducted in several villages. Bhajanas were also performed as well as Harikathas. Folk dances constituted another feature of the activities during the period. The Harijans in one village staged a drama. Thrift day celebrations were conducted in some places. Two grama sanghams repaired approach roads. Sign-posts were put up by few other villages. Two villages have opened libraries. An egg production society as well as a credit society were organized during the period. Street-cleaning drives were launched in several villages. A community centre was opened in one place by the Chief Physical Instructor, Madras. A grama sangham and a recreation club were organized in one village in Chittoor Division. In another village a village playground was marked out. A post office was opened through the efforts of one grama sangham.

Judi [illegible] show was [illegible] weavers' [illegible] ed [illegible] the introduction of prohibition. During the week ending 20th May, four further grama sanghams were organized.

Coimbatore.—Rural sports and amusements were held on a considerable scale in some places. There was competition in various items such as chedu-gudu, tug-of-war, folk dance and prizes were distributed to winners. The Collector spoke on the duties of grama sanghams and aims and methods of rural uplift. One grama sangham is sinking a well at a cost of Rs. 2,000. Another is constructing a school building.

Malabar.—Thrift day was celebrated in one place under the auspices of the jaggery production co-operative society.

Madura.—Two night schools were started by two grama sanghams. Fifty-six persons have joined one school and sixteen the other. Economic improvement of ex-addicts is also reported. In one case an ex-addict has saved Rs. 800 and has utilized the amount in discharging previous debts and purchasing bulls and similar other enterprises. Another has utilized his savings to purchase a plot of land. Nine ex-addicts, who are scavengers in a panchayat board at one place, are reported to have saved Rs. 680 and utilized the amount for discharging prior debts. It is also reported that petty thefts of cash by ex-addicts have ceased to exist.

Kurnool.—Two street cleanliness days were observed at two places. Thrift day was also celebrated.

Ootacamund.—Rural sports took place as usual. The second rural uplift school was started on 12th May. The Special Development Officer toured some places and explained the adva[illegible] tages of co-operative milk [illegible] Egg-marketing societies. [illegible] sanghams were formed in tv[illegible] Propaganda was done in [illegible] of thrift also. Cases of improvement of ex-addict[illegible] reported. One labou[illegible] Rs. 150 and some oth[illegible] their savings for d[illegible] debts.

Bellary.—There w[illegible] ment in one place. [illegible] also conducted. D[illegible] lectures on sa[illegible] social [illegible] arter [illegible]

One betterment committee has resolved to construct a school building at a cost of Rs. 3,000. A youth league, with the object of undertaking social welfare work, was also organized. Some of the village betterment committees have decided to take action to combat malaria and guinea worm. A library and reading room was opened in one place.

Nellore.—A firka tournament took place in one place and prizes were distributed to winners. Dramas were also staged. One grama sangham has arranged to construct a village hall.

Guntur.—A burrakatha performance was given in one place, and this was largely attended.

Salem.—A new volley ball court and public reading room were opened in Namakkal Division. The villagers in one place have offered to form a village road and also to construct a school building. The Tamilnad Co-operative Federation conducted its Fifth Conference in Salem on 14th May. The occasion was availed of for an exhibition of cottage industries and other products.

Benefits of Prohibition

A page from the past

When the benefits of prohibition are being doubted in some quarters it is worthwhile summarizing the effects of prohibition as recorded during the regime of the former Congress Ministry.

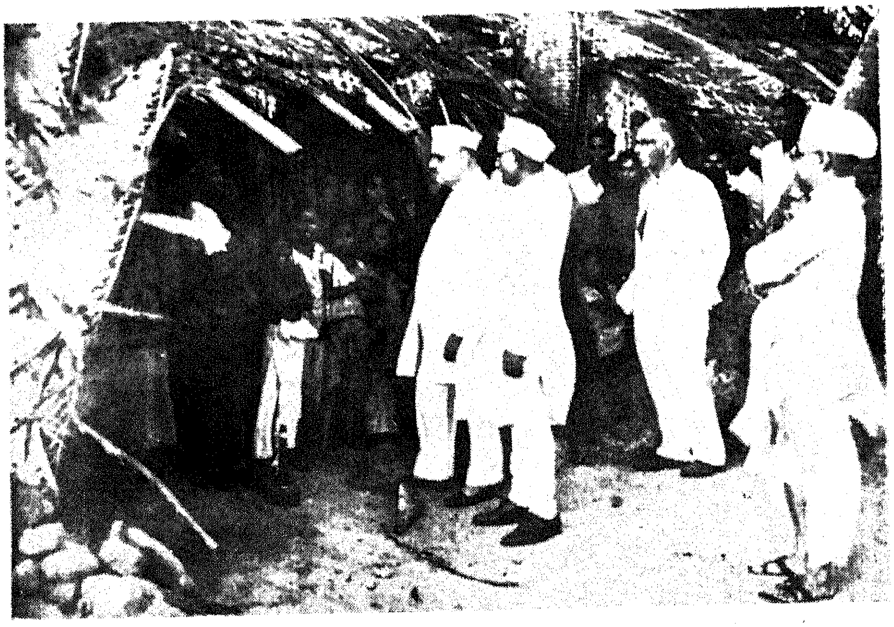
It could safely be stated that more than 90 per cent of persons formerly addicted to drink had become teetotallers in the fullest sense of the term. There had been appreciable decrease in murder and other crimes including property crimes. Economic condition of the former addicts considerably improved and special deposit accounts were opened for them by the Co-operative Department. People lived better and a[illegible] more sumptuously. In many cases they bought sheep or purchased jewels. Those who got out of the district to drink were socially ostracized and treated with indignity. Village squabbles ceased; small borrowing [illegible]appeared; petty money le[illegible] fewer and fewer victims [illegible] d poison; the [illegible]ces of [illegible] res and beamed with d[illegible] sily overcome [illegible] ntest sugges- [illegible] tion of drink-shops [illegible] short, the dread and [illegible] village homes became a [illegible] past. People gathered [illegible] temples and offered wor- [illegible] the spiritual liquor o[illegible] Spirituous liquor ha[illegible] d the way opene[illegible]

DOMINION FOOD MINISTER LOOKING BENEATH THE SURFACE

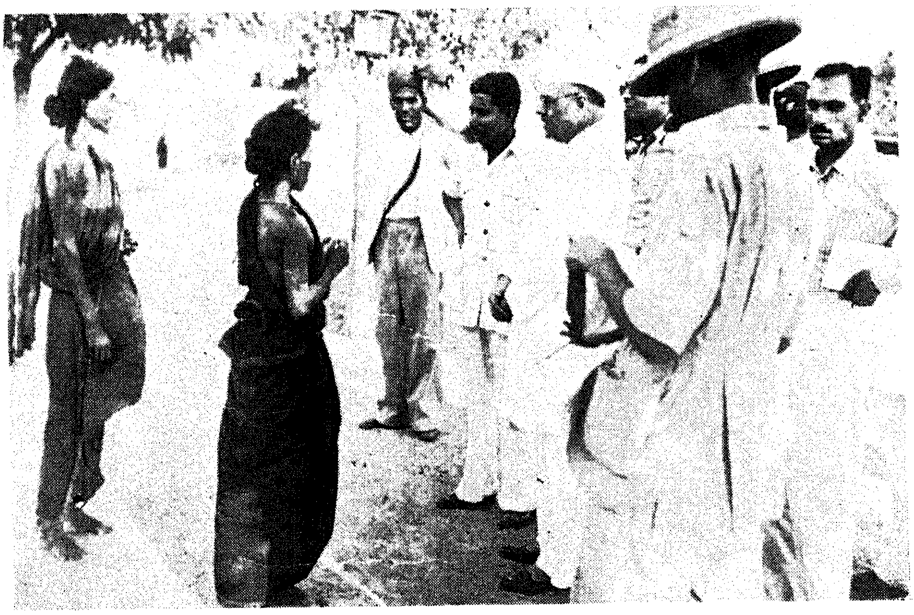
India's Food Minister Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram and Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Madras Food Minister examining the quality of rice supplies in a relief shop at Aucharapakam, Chingléput district

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister, inspecting ...ins in a grain ...ancherri,

MISCELLANEOUS OF THE FOOD



With Sri Pattam Thanu Pillai, Premier of Travancore, the Hon'ble Daulatram is seen talking to the fishermen in South Travancore



Maize Recipes discussed with village women

A villager represents his case to the Food Minister

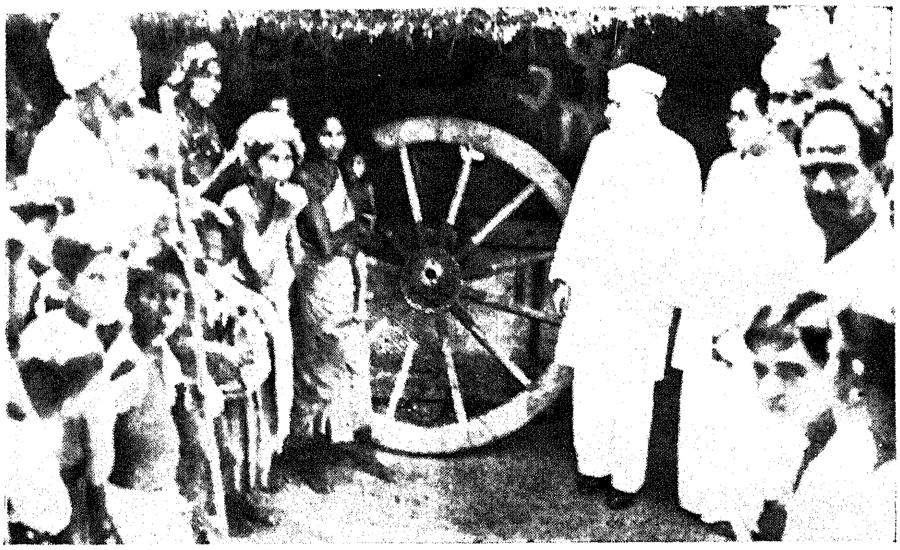
ENGAGEMENTS MINISTER

A village woman showing a tasty maize dish to the Madras Food Minister

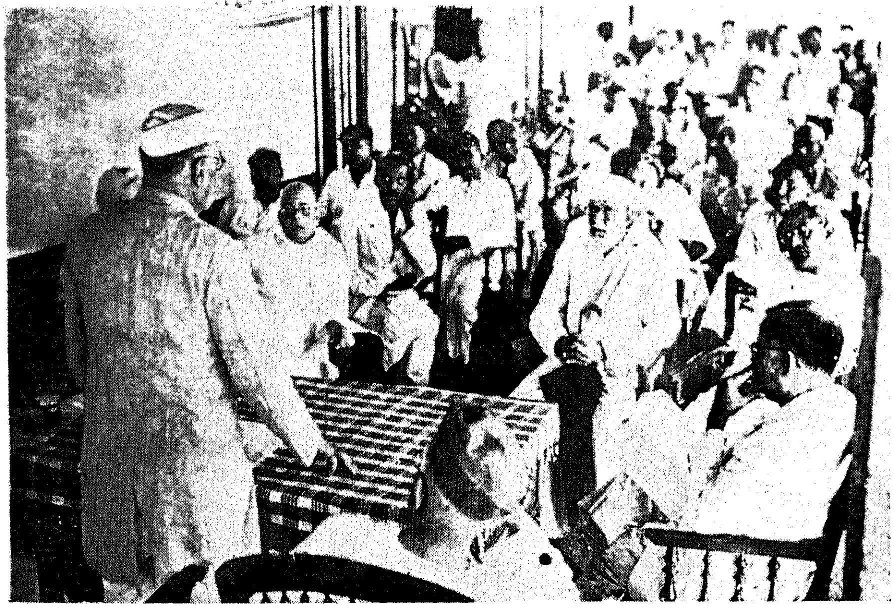
Examining a maize dish prepared by a village woman. She has set an example to others

Distributing maize dishes to youngsters in Tinnevelly. They are very tasty

THE MINISTER AND OTHERS LOOKING INTO THINGS



India's Food Minister, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram enquires about the food rationing from a group of women during his visit to Kathirampet, South Arcot district



The Minister meets a deputation at Madura

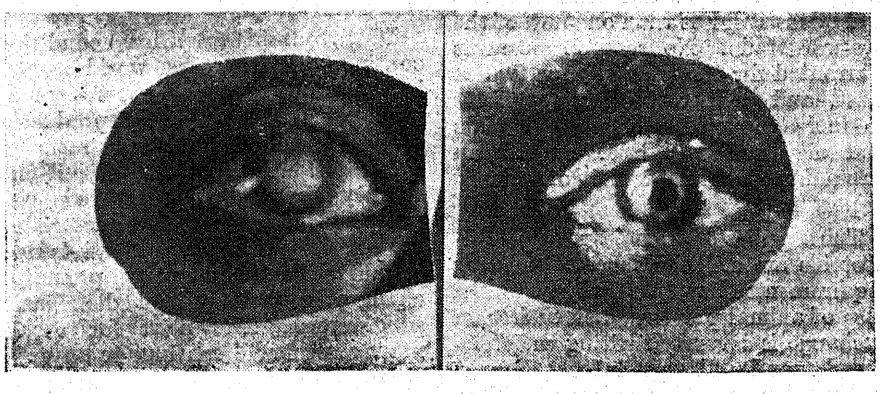
Mr. B. R. Patel, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of F... ...rnment of India, and M... ...C.S., Commi... ...s, ins... r...

SPECIAL ARTICLES

A Gift of Modern Medicine

Corneal Transplantation

You can get back your sight if you have lost it on account of a corneal opacity



Pi cture 1 *shows an eye with an extensive and dense corneal scar*

Picture 2 *shows an eye after operation. The clear dark circular portion in the centre of the cornea is the graft*

The cornea is what is commonly known as the "Black" of the eye. It appears black on account of the pigmentel iris diaphragm behind it. The cornea is really transparent and it has to be clear for purposes of good vision for light rays to pass through. If the cornea loses its transparency, sight is interfered with, the degree of visual disability depending on the density, the situation and size of the capacity. The cornea may become epaque from injury or as the result of disease. A very common cause of opacification of cornea is an ulcer of the cornea leaving behind an opaque scar when it heals.

Prevention is always better than cure and prevention of the conditions or prompt treatment of these which result in corneal opacities should receive the foremost attention. Preventive medicine has reached such a high pitch of efficiency in the Western countries that corneal scars are comparatively rare to come across there. However we are not concerned with prevention at the moment.

Here in our country, corneal opacities are extremely common. In other words there are many blind or partially blind from this cause and the curative aspect of this is of greater importance here than elsewhere. Thanks to modern surgery, [illegible]s now possible to restore sight to many of these unfortunate persons hitherto deemed to blindness for life.

The operation in corneal transplantation (corneal grafting, keratoplasty). It consists in removing the central position of the opaque cornea of the patient (recipient) and replacing it by a clear piece of cornea (graft) of equal size from the eye of a dead person (donor). A live person whose eye with a clear cornea has to be removed for some reason or other, e.g., a malignant growth in the eye can also be a donor. The operation is done under local anaesthesia. The graft is helped to stay in place by supporting sutures which are removed on the 8th day without any anaesthesia.

The graft takes easily but it is more difficult for it to remain clear. For corneal grafting to be successful as a sight restoring measure, the eye of the recipient must be healthy apart from the opaque cornea. The operation is of no use where parts of the eye other than the cornea, e.g., retina or the optic nerve or its connections are diseased. It is not also possible to perform it in all cases of corneal opacities. The scope of the operation is therefore somewhat restricted but this does not detract from ts utility. Where the operation is ndicated, the result is spectacular, the vision improving practically from blindness to normal.

The donor's eye is removed as soon as possible after death and is preserved in a refrigerater till it is required. It has to be used in a day or two. A place for the storage of such eyes for keratoplasty is an "Eye Bank." Selected patients are kept in readiness on a waiting list and the operation is performed at the earliest opportunity when a graft is available.

The public are hereby informed that an Eye Bank has been opened at the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore, Madras, and that corneal transplantations are being performed in the same Institution.

—This patient had an injury to his eye with a piece of steal which resulted in an ulcer of the cornea. With energetic treatment the ulcer healed and the eye was saved but the scar left behind by the ulcer reduced his vision to practically nothing. Now after corneal grafting he has almost normal vision and has returned to work.

If your sight is defective on account of a corneal opacity, seek the advice of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital at Egmore. You may be a suitable case for corneal grafting. You may be destined to regain your lost sight.

In New York, some persons about to die make provision in their will for the presentation of their eyes after their death to the Eye Bank. These men have set the example for others to follow. In death, you can give light and bring happiness to your less fortunate fellow beings who tread the path o[illegible] darkness and in distress

W[illegible]

Steady Progress o[illegible]

By Mr. [illegible]

Cautious optimism for the fut[illegible] is warranted, according to the repo[illegible] submitted by the International Emer[illegible]gency [illegible] Council to the April session [illegible] the Council of the Food and

six months, and have taken the worst edge off the anticipated world food crisis during the current crop year 1947-48. These developments were; first, the unusally mild winter in Europe; secondly, the record harvest in Australia; and thirdly, the recent doubling of the monthly grain exports from Argentina, which are supported by much larger crop yields than could normally be counted upon. In addition the anticipated exports of cereals from the U.S.S.R. are, in fact, materialising.

Larger Milk Production

The unusual mild winter in Europe has moderated the shortage of feeding stuffs. The unusual availability of feeding stuffs resulted in a much larger milk production than was anticipated. Livestock slaughtering owing to insufficient supplies of feeding stuffs could not be avoided (for example, in Denmark cattle numbers fell by 11 per cent., during 1947), but its extent was less than seemed inevitable six months ago. Another important factor in the improvement of the general situation was that governments made much stronger efforts for the conservation and collection of grain.

All this does not mean, however, that the world food situation of the last six months has been satisfactory or that no more real problems remain to be solved. On the contrary, rations in a number of countries have been lower and operating stocks less adequate than in the winter 1946-47. The gap between supplies and requirements has not been wholly closed, but "the job of closing it just looks less imposing than it did last autumn."

World sugar production has equalled, if not exceeded, earlier expectations. Allocation recommendations for this commodity were discontinued several months ago, partly, of course, because lack of dollar exchange has limited the ability of many countries, where sugar consumption is still well below pre-war levels, to purchase supplies from dollar areas, and most of the world's exportable ...lies this year are in the dol... 500,000 tons of ... t for ... has ... ing

increase in the rice eating populations of the world during the last decade, and continuing deficiencies in available rice supplies will exist which can be met, if at all, only by the substitution of wheat or coarse grains.

The supplies of fats and oils have also slightly improved. Before World War II, the caloric content of exported food fats and oils was nearly 50 per cent. of that of exported food grains. At present, the world trade in fats and oils is still less than one-half of the pre-war trade. No real optimism is warranted for the next year or two at least, and deliberate effective efforts to increase world production of fats and oils (such as the East African Groundnuts Scheme) remain of primary importance.

The supplies of animal and vegetable proteins are still far short of meeting requirements, but, particularly in the case of animal proteins, lack of foreign exchange is severely limiting the effective demand. The production of meat is dependent on the supplies of feeding stuffs. It is too early to forecast the availabilities of cereals in the next crop-year. Between now and the new harvest no major general improvement is possible in the supply of concentrated feeding stuffs. An improvement in the food grain situation after the new harvest would reduce the diversion of food grain to direct human consumption and increase the supply of milling offals through the possibility of adjustments in the extraction ratios for flour.

Europe's meat production is estimated at 16,700 million pounds and her meat imports at 3,500 million pounds in 1948, compared with a production of 17,500 million pounds and imports of 4,000 million pounds in 1947, and a production of 27,100 million pounds and imports of 3,058 million pounds in pre-war years.

Future Prospects

For the first time since the end of World War II, the report says, it is possible to express some cautious optimism about future prospects for food grains. Shipments from Australia and Argentina are certain to be larger in the first half of the 1948-49 crop year than they were in the first half of the current crop year. It is also certain that this year's crops in Europe will be larger.

If favourable weather conditions continue all over the world (which, in the words of the report, is a "most unlikely gamble") world production of food and food grains may return to pre-war levels in 1948-49, if not slightly above, but "these are only prospects" and until they materialise, governments will be well advised to refrain from making any premature changes in their present distribution programmes. The need for careful management will continue in any case, since even if pre-war supplies were available, they would have to be shared among an increased world population; but a moderate improvement in rations and working stocks can be anticipated for the next crop year.

In many countries, however, supplies will remain short in terms of pre-war consumption, which, in some instances, was far short of meeting minimum nutritional requirements.

Food shortages will continue to affect industrial production and to constitute a heavy drain on the foreign exchange resources of numerous importing countries. However, the unbalanced geographic distribution of production (with the largest decrease in importing areas with large population), which has characterised the past two years, will be improved if present weather conditions continue.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Improved Varieties of Sugarcane

Sugarcane is an important money ...l food crop which has a great bearing ... the Agricultural economy of this ...ovince. It is this crop which has ...ifted many a ryot from the slough of debt and despondency by ... better return even during the pr... days and has now placed them ... ound

The total area under cane in Madras Province is roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres of which the ...entral districts comprising, North Arcot, Chittoor, Salem and South Arcot grow nearly half of the total area under cane. Sugarcane is grown in a v...y of soils varying ... deep lo... in the northern ...am tending to be

clayey further down in the Godavari delta to light loams tending to be sandy in the central and parts of southern districts. Irrigation is mainly from channels in the northern districts while lift irrigation from wells supplemented by water-supply from rainfed tanks form the main source of water-supply in the central districts.

The Sugarcane Research Station, Gudiyattam, was started in the year 1935 to solve some of the problems of sugarcane growers of the central districts wherein the conditions of soil and cultivation differ in certain respects from other parts. The area of the station is 35 acres, of which 29 acres are under cultivation. Normally sugarcane occupies an area of 8 acres every year on the basis of a three-year rotation and the rest of the area is devoted to foodcrops like paddy, ragi, cholam, etc.

The object of the station is to increase the yield of sugar per acre by varietal, cultural and manurial methods and also to increase the income of the cane grower by reducing the cost of cultivation. Introduction of better varieties is the potent method of increasing the yield of any crop on a wide scale and hence it formed the main programme of work on this station.

The varietal position in the district at the time of inception of the station and the results achieved so far are briefly given below :—

In 1935, at the time of inception of the station, J. 247 was the predominant variety grown in the district of North Arcot as also in other parts of the Presidency while Tellacherukku and stripped Mauritus were occupying almost the entire area under cane in Chittoor district. These varieties were poor in drought resistance and habit, consequently they required frequent irrigations and also elaborate method of wrapping and propping which only increased the cost of cultivation. Their yields were low averaging to 20 to 25 tons of cane per acre. The varieties were all introductions from Java, Barbados and Mauritus and were under cultivation for nearly three decades. Besides the above, the new introductions of Co. 213, Co. 281, P.O.J. 2878 and Co. 290 were slowly finding their way. But at present we can hardly see any trace of them. Within less than a decade from the inception of this farm they have been practically replaced by better varieties that were bred at Coimbatore and tested and released for cultivation from this station.

The economic characters of varieties that were tested on this station and recommended for cultivation are given below :—

Co. 419—*Sugarcane.*—It is a very vigorous growing variety, thick and juicy, with fairly good tillering, good sucrose (18 to 19 per cent in juice) capable of withstanding drought and also water-logging. It gives an yield of 37 to 40 tons of cane or 41 to 46 pothis of jaggery (pothi is 250 lb.) per acre. In favourable situations, yields over 60 tons of cane per acre are also not uncommon. It attains maturity in 11½ months when planted in February-March and is suitable for crushing in February-March. Jaggery is of good quality. Maximum recovery of jaggery is 12 to 13 per cent of cane weight. It can also be ratooned for one season. Co. 419 has almost completely replaced the previous local varieties of J. 247, Tellacherukku and stripped Mauritus owing to its high yield of over 60 per cent than the local varieties and also to its other good qualities of withstanding drought and capacity for ratooning. It is no exaggeration to say that by the introduction of Co. 419 the increase in the income of the ryot even at a most conservative estimate under ryots' conditions is Rs. 250 per acre and the increase in the national income for the North Arcot district alone is about 4·5 lakhs of rupees.

Co. 421 is a vigorous growing variety, medium in thickness, with fairly good tillering. It develops fairly high sucrose of 16 per cent by November-December and is suitable for crushing in the early season. It attains a maximum sucrose of 18·15 per cent in January when harvested in December for early crushings it gives an yield of 30 tons of cane or 31 pothis of jaggery per acre. The advantages of growing an early variety of cane are (1) Sugar factories can start work early in December, (2) jaggery marketed in the early season at Pongal fetches a better price, (3) a short duration grain crop of paddy, ragi, cholam, etc., can be grown during the Navarai season (January to April) as the cane leaves the field by December.

Subsequent trials have shown Co. 449 to be a better variety for crushing in the early season with 31 per cent more yield.

Co. 449 is a tall growing variety, medium in thickness, with good tillering and late vigour. The initial growth of the variety may be slow up to August, but it attains a high sucrose of 18 per cent even in January and maintains for a long time till April. Hence it is suitable for crushing even in the early season and also in the mid and late seasons. It attains a maximum sucrose of 19·18 per cent in March which is the best time for its harvest. It gives an yield of 34 tons of cane or 34 pothis of jaggery when crushed in December and up to 48 tons of cane or 50 pothis of jaggery when crushed during the late season in April-May. It is not a brittle cane and does not break like Co. 419. Jaggery is of very good colour and quality. It comes up well in stuations of normal water-supply. It can be particularly grown in factory areas as it is a high-yielding cane with rich sucrose fit for crushing in the early, middle and late seasons.

Co. 467 is another vigorous variety coming to the fore. It has very good tillering and habit with fairly good sucrose and high tonnage and promises to do better than Co. 419 or Co. 449. The variety has not yet passed the experimental stage. Search for still more better varieties is being continued.

Ryots interested in sugarcane cultivation are welcomed to visit the farm which is situated close to the Melalathur Railway station on the Madras-Bangalore line and about two miles from the Gudiyattam town.

Long Staple Cotton in South India

The bulk if not the whole of the long staple cottons of the work exceeding 1¼ inch comprises of varieties named in trade as Sea Island, Egyptian Peruvian. They belong to the same botanical group known as *Gossypium barbadense.* Every spinning [illegible] engaged in the production of yarn counts over 80s will need one or m[illegible] varieties belonging to this class [illegible] cottons. No part of India gr[illegible] these fine styles and therefore we [illegible] obliged t[illegible] der[illegible]nd [illegible] and import [illegible]

the fo[illegible] these three grou[illegible] Island gro[illegible] a[illegible]

Montserrat and St. Vincent in West Indies, comes up fairly well on the well drained laterite soils of South Kanara as a rain-grown crop when planted in the months of May–June. Examination of samples of lint revealed that staple length up to 1⅜ inch could be secured. The variety stood pruning and shading. Insect attack during the monsoon months very low and the quality of the harvests was good. A scheme of experiments for cultivating them as pure crop at Mangalore, as subsidiary crop in coconut plantations in South Kanara and Malabar and as mixed crop in the Modan lands of Malabar, will be started during this year. It is also reported that Sea Island variety is coming up well as a summer crop at Palur in the South Arcot district especially in places favoured with the humid sea breeze. If the experiments prove entirely successful, one lakh of bales could be produced in Madras Province.

A South American variety Quebradinho is doing very well in Aduturai in Tanjore district and satisfies both the productivity and quality standards. It is a hardy type capable of withstanding drought and putting on good growth on fertile lands. There are great possibilities of extending its cultivation in Tanjore delta as a hedge plant in padugai lands, betel vine and plantation gardens, as a bund crop on sides of canals, as a subsidiary crop in coconut plantations, as a mixed crop in rain-grown groundnuts and millets, and as a backyard plant in homesteads.

Little drops of rain make the mighty ocean. Small bushes of the Quebradinho cotton grown over a vast area of the delta will make thousands of bales of long staple cotton badly needed by the Indian Mills.

AIMS AND ATTITUDES

Madras Premier on Basic Education

"The more I see Basic Education at work, the more I am convinced that the only way of promoting permanent constructive work among our people is by taking up Basic Education", said Mr. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, Premier of Madras, in his address at the Convocation held to distribute certificates to the first batch of 20 women Basic Education teachers, on the completion of their two-year period of training under the Tamil Nad Kasturba Trust in Gandhigram, Chinnalapatti, Madura district, yesterday.

The Premier said: "While there is no doubt in my mind that each of the great movements of constructive work started by Mahatma Gandhi, i.e., the Khadi movement, the village industries movement, Harijan ... ment and the Kasturba ... utmost impor... f our ... all ... e in the reconstruction of village life in the country without which India could not progress in any direction whatsoever. He was more happy that he was distributing Basic Teachers' training certificates specially to women teachers, than he would be if he were presiding over the Convocation of any university in India. He exhorted the teachers to carry the message of Gandhiji to the villages.

* * *

Absentee Landlordism

"We must create an interest, an incentive in each cultivator which will make him devote all his energy to his task so that every inch of cultivable land may yield its maximum output. We must not permit absentee landlordism, rack-renting and other evils inseparable from a system which permits men to hold large areas of land who do not themselves cultivate and are not interested in cultivating it, but only in getting rich at the expense of other people's toil." Thus declared ...r. B. G. Kher, while inaugurating ... second Conference of the Bombay ...ovince Landholders' League, at ...na, recently. Continuing he said: ... is the duty of citizens of a free ...on to serve the motherland and ...prepared for self-sacrifice as and ...n necessary. ... ...munists who are wedded to internationalism and take their orders from Russia nor Communalists who put the good of their own community or caste above that of the country can give us any sound solution of our problem in the name of whomsoever they may claim to speak. It is our first duty to preserve our freedom and do our best to support all programmes chalked out for betterment of the economic and social conditions of the bulk of our countrymen who are poor, regardless of class, caste or community. This was the object for which Mahatmaji—the architect of our freedom—strove throughout his life and though he is not physically among us now, his ideals inspire and his principles guide our footsteps."

Stressing closer contact between the cultivator and the Government, he said: "An actual cultivator of land is removed from the State by the presence of intermediaries and any help which the State may give for improvement of agriculture does not very often reach the actual cultivator. It is necessary that a peasant cultivator should have direct contact with the State so that he can feel that he also can do a great deal not merely to improve his own condition but also to contribute towards preservation of his country's freedom."

* * *

Economic Ideals of Gandhiji

"It is often said these days Gandhiji was the greatest Socialist of the age. One might go further and say he was even a Communist in so far as he believed in and advocated community life for the people of the world to the utmost extent possible. His own ashrams in which he lived were the most complete examples of community life where each had according to his needs and each served according to his capacity. But describing Gandhiji as a Socialist or a Communist would be describing him very imperfectly and even in a misleading manner." Thus observed His Excellency Dr. Katju, Governor of Orissa, broadcasting recently over the All-India Radio, Lucknow, in the series "Fundamentals of Gandhiji."

All conflict, he continued, was foreign to Gandhiji's way of living and to him end did not justify the means, if the means were not legitimate and peaceful in themselves. He wanted to secure his object not b... ...rce but by moral ...ion.

Explaining how Gandhiji proposed to liquidate capitalism, His Excellency said: "Gandhiji believed in the ideal of a classless society, society in which men and women would be bound to each other by ties of goodwill and fellowship. Liquidation of any class or group was hateful to him. He wanted to liquidate capitalism by persuading capitalists to convert themselves voluntarily into trustees for the benefit of the State and their fellow citizens."

His Excellency continued: "If this theory of Gandhiji's were accepted largely, capitalism itself would lose all its vice by losing all its grossness and power of mischief. If a capitalist were to consider himself truly a trustee of the wealth he acquires, then obviously there would be no desire on his part to treat his workers unfairly, give them low wages or impose upon them unreasonable conditions of work."

Stating that Gandhiji's conception of proper way of living influenced his "arthik adarsh" (economic idealism), His Excellency said Gandhiji preferred simple life in clean homely surroundings with plenty of fresh air, trees and shrubs and flowers and flowing water near about. He wanted happy homes with limited families so that the burden upon the householder and particularly on the housewife should not become unbearable. "This endeavour to simplify life and the manner of living," added His Excellency "led Gandhiji to glorify and even idealise cottage industries. The spinning wheel was to Gandhiji the symbol of clean and ideal life, something around which whole life should revolve; and the spinning wheel naturally excluded all heavy machinery which became useless and needless; and if you once exclude heavy machinery you also avoid all complicated questions of nationalization of industries."

Proceeding, His Excellency said: "I think Gandhiji did not want to kill individual enterprise. Indeed he wanted to encourage individual skill and individual effort. But the field for play of such skill and such enterprise in Gandhiji's scheme of things was very limited. And profit incentive having been largely excluded, individual skill and enterprise would have been solely actuated by considerations of service of community. A spirit of unselfish service may make all the difference in the world in the exercise of one's calling."

His Excellency concluded: "Non-violence held the k[illegible] his eco[illegible] idealism. You ignore non-violence and then his 'arthik adarsh' may seem impractical, even Utopian to you. But once mankind accepts the doctrine of non-violence then Gandhiji's 'arthik adarsh' seems noble and inspiring, thoroughly achievable in its completeness and simplicity."

* * *

Aim of Basic Education

"What we want is a revolutionary change in the outlook and methods of education and not mere re-allocation of the syllabus of various studies," declared the Education Minister Hon'ble Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, addressing the trainees of the citizenship training camp at the Teachers' College, Saidapet, recently.

The Minister said that till now the objective of education had been merely imparting knowledge to children, but in future the objective had to be, apart from giving knowledge, to develop children into men and women of character and initiative.

He added: "Our objective is to build a casteless and classless society based on a co-operative commonwealth in which everybody will have a chance of leadership according to his own effort and initiative. We should build a society based on character, love and service." the Hon'ble Minister concluded: "Basic education is the declared policy of Government with regard to elementary education. In the present reorganization of secondary education, the principles of basic education have been extended to secondary education also. Education based on activities with the intention of bringing out the qualities of co-operation, service and leadership are the main elements of basic education which have been adopted in secondary education through this citizenship training."

DELHI NOTES

Six Thousand New Tube Wells Planned

The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has drawn up a programme of construction of 6,000 tube wells in various parts of the country over the next five or six years as an aid to the Grow-More-Food campaign.

This was revealed by Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, at a conference held at New Delhi recently at which the Irrigation Adviser, Government of India, the Technical Officer to the Electrical Commissioner, Government of India, and Chief Engineers of the United Provinces and Bihar Governments were present.

The conference also discussed the manufacture of bore-hole pumps in India. It was suggested that further particulars about cost, etc., should be obtained before the Provinces could express a definite opinion.

* * *

Foodgrains Policy Committee's Recommendations

"With a view to removing the constant threat of scarcity, famine and [illegible] on imports to which the country is exposed at present, it must set before it the task of increasing the foodgrains production annually by 10 million tons within the shortest possible time."

Large-scale multi-purpose projects to provide assured irrigation; intensive efforts to raise the production from the soil already under cultivation by increased use of water, manure and improved seeds and the development of cultivable waste lands must be an integral part of a comprehensive food production policy for the immediate future.

To put this plan into effective operation, it will be necessary to establish a Central Board of Agricultural Planning, to set up [illegible]ds of Agriculture [illegible] Central Land [illegible] with a ca[illegible]

OTHER PROVINCES

Co-operation in Bombay

Many co-operative societies embracing a wide range of activities were registered during the quarter ending December 1948. The progress in co-operative organisation is marked by a remarkable increase in the number of agricultural thrift and credit and multipurpose societies. There was an increase in housing societies also while one society for women in Nasik district was registered.

One hundred and forty-four societies in the rural areas include better farming, crop protection, joint farming and cattle breeding societies. Out of 91 societies registered in theu rban areas, 27 were consumers' societies, 27 housing societies, 18 producers' societies and the remaining ones include slary earners', colonization and co-opertive workshop societies.

Amongst the housing societies is included one, for the Harijans at Modasa in Ahmedabad district. The effort of the Dang Seva Mandal to popularize the co-operative movement amongst the forest workers were responsible for the formation of a society for the economic uplift of these workers in the backward tract of Nasik district.

The co-operative workshop at Karad will maintain mechanical and carpentry departments and undertake repairs of bullock-carts, agricultural implements, motor-buses, sugarcane crushing machines, etc. The membership of the society consists of ex-servicemen possessing mechanical and technical knowledge as well as the others interested in the co-opearative enterprise.

* * *

Fisheries Development in Bombay

The ann[illegible] Bombay Gover[illegible] [illegible]sheries [illegible] been [illegible]ble [illegible]

out of the loan granted by the Government along with a subsidy of Rs. 10,000.

During the year, the possibilities of establishing better landing facilities and provision of more fish-markets in Bombay were explored. The Department helped owners of ice factories in obtaining essential materials and stores at controlled prices. The fisherman, too, were helped to obtain their requirements of twine, coaltar, timber, etc. (The total of loans granted to fishermen during the year amounted to Rs. 1,55,850.)

> A man whose wisdom is not steady is liable to be betrayed into anger, evil thoughts or abuse. On the contrary, the man with the steady wisdom will remain equally unaffected by adulation or abuse. He will realize that abuse fouls only the tongue that utters it, never the person against whom it is hurled. A man of steady wisdom will therefore never wish ill to any one but will pray even for his enemy with his last breath.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

Stipends of Rs. 30 a month were given to fishermen youths to obtain training in engine-driving to enable them to operate steam-launches and another scheme of training in navigation was also approved by the Government. It was decided to send a couple of students to foreign countries for higher training. The scheme for construction of a research centre in Bombay was sanctioned during the year.

Large quantities of fish were cured at the 34 fish-curing yards managed by the Department. Demonstrations are given in improved methods in curing.

The other activities of the Department included production and sale of shark liver oil, manufacture of gelatine, fish glue, fish meal and utilisation of [illegible]

Rural Development Funds in Assam

The Government of Assam have started Rural Development Funds. One of the purposes for which these funds will be used, to start with, will be the granting of prize money to villagers who satisfactorily carry out any village Self-Help enterprise, such as the building of a road, sinking of a well, improvement of village sanitation, compost making, etc.

Self-Help Advisory Boards have been formed in each subdivision. These boards will examine the work done by the villagers applying for grants and will recommend to the Director of Rural Development the prizes which should be awarded for satisfactory Self-Help enterprises.

* * *

Educational Survey in West Bengal.

The Government of West Bengal have undertaken an educational survey of the Province and propose to set up an agency in each district for the compilation of various data and materials needed for the planning of the future development of educational facilities for the people.

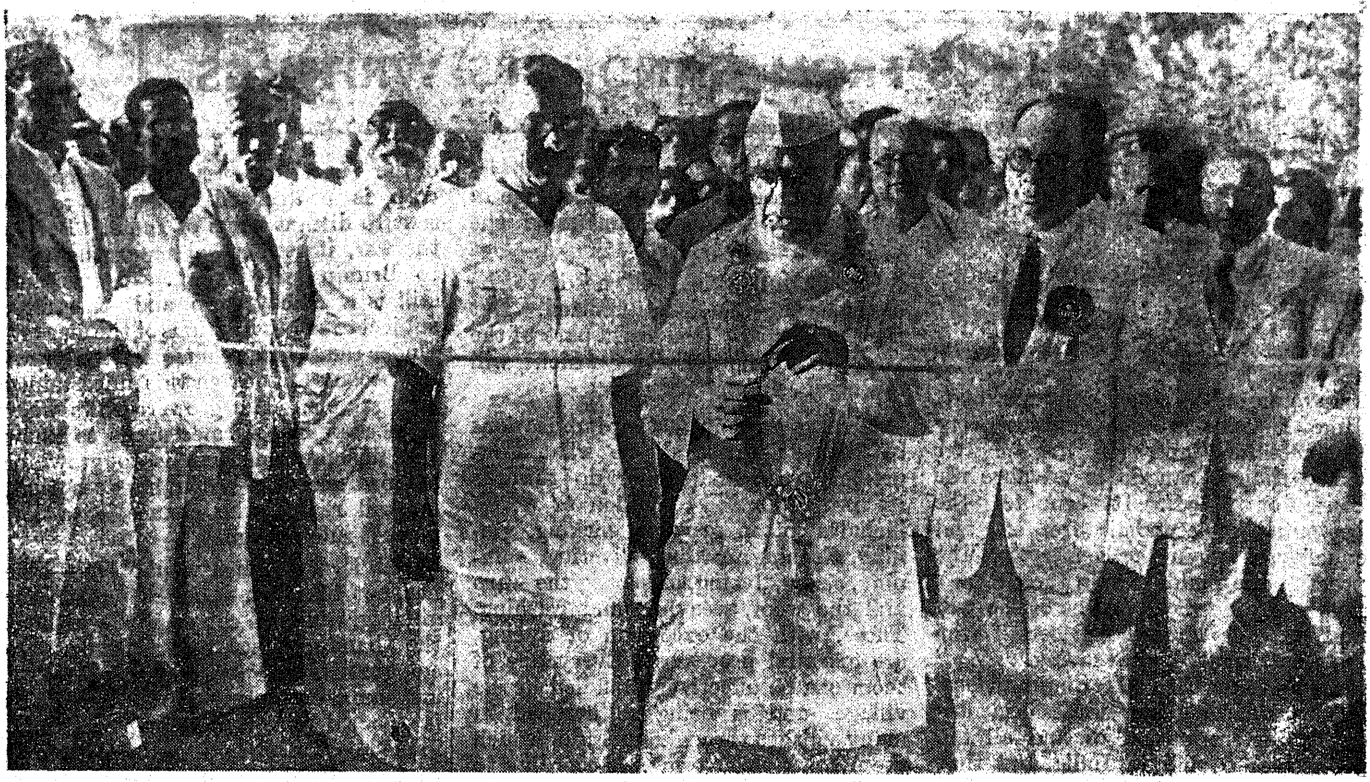
The agency employed for conducting this educational survey will consist of enumerators and supervisors working under the direct control of the District Inspectors of Schools. Enumerators and supervisors will go round each village and each ward in a town or city, making house to house visits and contacting all educational institutions for collection of relevant materials.

* * *

Pollution of Drinking Water in Bombay Villages

In order to prevent the misuse of fouling of drinking water in villages the Government of Bombay has brought it to the notice of the village panchayats and the village officers that there is ample provision in the existing law to prevent such pollution. Under section 277 of the Indian Penal Code, it is an offence to corrupt or foul any source of water-supply and the village Benches duly authorized by the Government under section 41 of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1933 are competent to take cognizance of [illegible]h offences a[illegible] award fines up to

Fruit Development in Madras



Dominion Food Minister declaring open the Fruit Show in Madras

CLIPPINGS FROM GANDHIJI'S WRITINGS

Khadi

Khadi is a controversial subject. Many people think that in advocating *Khadi* I am sailing against a headwind and am sure to sink the ship of Swaraj and that I am taking the country to the dark ages. I do not propose to argue the case for *Khadi* in this brief survey. I have argued it sufficiently elsewhere. Here I want to show what every Congressman, and for that matter every Indian, can do to advance the cause of *Khadi*. It connotes the beginning of economic freedom and equality of all in the country. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." Let everyone try, and he or she will find out for himself or herself the truth of what I am saying. *Khadi* must be taken with all its implications. It means a wholesale swadeshi mentality, a determination to find all the necessaries of life in India and that too through the labour and intellect of the villagers. That means a reversal of the existing process. That is to say that, instead of half a dozen cities of India and Great Britain living on the exploitation and the ruin of the 700,000 villages of India, the latter will be largely self-contained, and will voluntarily serve the cities of India and even the outside world in so far as it benefits both the parties.

This needs a revolutionary change in the mentality and tastes of money. Easy though the non-violent way is in many respects, it is very difficult in many others. It vitally touches the life of every single Indian, makes him feel aglow with the possession of a power that has lain hidden within himself, and makes him proud of his identity. This non-violence is not the inanity for which we have mistaken it through all these long ages; it is the most potent force as yet known to mankind a[illegible]h its very existence [illegible]is that force [illegible]resent [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] is every village to produce all its necessaries and a certain percentage in addition for the requirements of the cities.

Heavy industries will need to be centralized and nationalized. But they will occupy the least part of the vast national activity which will mainly be in the villages.

Having explained the implications of *Khadi*, I must indicate what Congressmen can and should do towards its promotion. Production of *Khadi* includes cotton growing, picking, ginning, cleaning, carding, slivering, spinning, sizing, dyeing, preparing the warp and the woof, weaving, and washing. These, with the exception of dyeing, are essential processes. Every one of them can be effectively handled in the villages and is being so handled in many villages throughout India which the A.I.S.A. is covering. According to the latest, report the following are the interesting figures:—

275,146 villagers, including 19,645 Harijans and 57,378 Muslims, scattered in at least 13,451 villages, received, as spinners, weavers, etc., Rs. 34,85,609 in 1940. The spinners were largely women.

Yet the work done is only one-hundredth part of what could be done if Congressmen honestly took up the *Khadi* programme. Since the wanton destruction of this central village industry and the allied handicrafts, intelligence and brightness have fled from the villages, leaving them insane, lustreless, and reduced almost to the state of their ill-kept cattle.

If Congressmen will be true to their Congress call in respect of *Khadi*, they will carry out the instructions of the A.I.S.A. issued from time to time as to the part they can play in *Khadi* planning. Only a few broad rules can be laid down here:—

1. Every family with a plot of ground can grow cotton at least for family use. Cotton growing is an easy process. In Bihar, the cultivators were by law compelled to sow indigo on 3/20 of their cultivable land. This was in the interest of the foreign indigo planter. Why cannot [illegible] grow cotton voluntarily for the [illegible] on a certain portion of our land? [illegible] reader will note that decentralization commences from the beginning of the *Khadi* processes. To-day, cotton crop is centralized and has to be sent to distant parts of India. Before the war, it used to be sent principally to Britain and Japan. It was and still is a money crop and therefore, subject to the fluctuations of the market. Under the *Khadi* scheme, cotton growing becomes free from this uncertainty and gamble. The grower grows what he needs. The farmer needs to know that his first business is to grow for his own needs. When he does that, he will reduce the chance of a low market ruining him.

2. Every spinner would buy—if he has not his own—enough cotton for ginning, which he can easily do without the hand-ginning roller frame. He can gin his own portion with a board and an iron rolling pin. Where this is considered impracticable, hand-ginned cotton should be brought and carded. Carding for self can be done well on a tiny bow without much effort. The greater the decentralization of labour the simpler and cheaper the tools. The slivers made, the process of spinning commences. I strongly recommend the *dhanush takli*. I have used it frequently. My speed on it is almost the same as on the wheel. I draw a finer thread and the strength and evenness of the yarn are greater on the *dhanush takli* than on the wheel. This may not, however, hold good for all. My emphasis on the *dhanush takli* is based on the fact that it is more easily made, is cheaper than and does not require frequent repairs like the wheel. Unless one knows how to make the two [illegible]als and to adjust them when they slip or to put the wheel right when it refuses to work, the wheel has often to lie idle. Moreover, if the millions take to spinning at once, as they well may have to, the *dhanush takli*, being the instrument most easily made and handled, is the only tool that can meet the demand. It is more easily made even than the simple *takli*. The best, easiest and cheaper way is to make it oneself. Indeed one ought to learn how to handle and make simple tools. Imagine the unifying and educative effect of the whole nation simultaneously taking part in the processes up to spinning! Consider the levelling effect of the bond of common labour between the rich and the poor!

Yarn thus produced may be used [illegible]ee ways [illegible] presenting it to the

A.I.S.A. for the sake of the poor, by having it woven for personal use, or by getting as much *khadi* for it as it can buy. It is clear enough that the finer and better the yarn the greater will be its value. If Congressmen will put their heart into the work, they will make improvements in the tools and make many discoveries. In our country there has been a divorce between labour and intelligence. The result has been stagnation. If there is an indissoluble marriage between the two, and that in the manner here suggested, the resultant good will be inestimable.

In this scheme of nation-wide spinning as a sacrifice, I do not expect the average man or woman to give more than one hour daily to this work.

Other village industries

These stand on a different footing from *khadi*. There is not much scope for voluntary labour in them. Each industry will take the labour of only a certain number of hands. These industries come in as a handmaid to *khadi*. They cannot exist without *khadi*, and *khadi* will be robbed of its dignity without them. Village economy cannot be complete without the essential village industries such as hand-grinding, hand-pounding, soap-making, paper-making, match-making, tanning, oil-pressing, etc. Congressmen can interest themselves in these and, if they are villagers or will settle down in villages, they will give these industries a new life and a new dress. All should make it a point of honour to use only village articles whenever and wherever available. Given the demand there is no doubt that most of our wants can be supplied from our villages. When we have become village-minded, we will not want imitations of the West or machine-made products, but we will develop a true national taste in keeping with the vision of a new India in which pauperism, starvation and idleness will be unknown.

Village Sanitation

Divorce between intelligence and labour has resulted in criminal negligence of the villages. And so, instead of having graceful hamlets dotting the land, we have dungheaps. The approach to many villages is not a refreshing experience. Often one would like to shut one's eyes and stuff one's nose; such is the surrounding dirt and offending smell. If the majority of Congressmen were derived from our villages, as they should be, they should be able to make our villages, models of cleanliness in every sense of the word. But they have never considered it their duty to identify themselves with the villagers in their daily lives. A sense of national or social sanitation is not a virtue among us. We may take a kind of a bath, but we do not mind dirtying the well or the tank or the river by whose side or in which we perform ablutions. I regard this defect as a great vice which is responsible for the disgraceful state of our villages and the sacred banks of the sacred rivers and for the diseases that spring from insanitation.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

"TO THE BUILDERS OF TOMORROW"

By MADHURI DESAI, *published by Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. Price Rs.* 8–8–0.

This is a book on the evolution of modern medicine treated from a historical perspective and written in the form of a number of letters to two young people, Lina and Vijay. The book consists of 22 sections or letters. It is attractively got up and well illustrated.

The first three chapters bring out very interestingly the sway exercised by the medicine-man, the priest and the charlatan. They tre[illegible] black [illegible] of exercising spirits, and of the way in which some clever adventurers made capital out of the credulity of the people and the hoaxes perpetrated by some of them. Religion, education and Medicine have been from time immemorial, prolific fields which have lent themselves to be exploited in this way, because there was little exact knowledge and therefore much dogma. There is a period between the dar[illegible] primitive age and the Bacteriologi[illegible] era and some account of it could ha[illegible] been given.

Then the book proceeds to d[illegible] the more important endem[illegible] epidemic diseases. Malari[illegible] [illegible]kes the pride of place [illegible] with very interestingly. There is also the fact that fundamental discoveries relating to malaria have taken place in India and scientific research of a high order has been carried out. The whole exciting story of Ross's discovery of the malarial parasite, the work of Grassi and the discovery of cinchona have all been related in a very readable way and the account is led up to the most recent discoveries of effective insecticides like DDT and anti-malaria drugs like Paludrine.

The part played by the discovery of microscope in the development of science receives two interesting sections. The work of Robert Koch has been well illustrated in discussing anthrax, tuberculosis and cholera. The work of pasteur however does not receive its due share.

The chapter on tuberculosis is informative and is a good exposition of the factors involved in its causation and lays emphasis on the need for prevention, cure as well as rehabilitation. The chapter has dealt with the recent developments of mass miniature radiography, B.C.G. vaccination and streptomycin.

Interesting accounts are given of cholera and smallpox and how we have arrived at the present day measures of control. The work of Kitasato and Yersin in connexion with the discovery of the plague bacillus has been well described and an account of the experiments of the Plague Commission in Bombay is also included in the chapter on Plague.

The chapter on quarantine shows that any instrument placed in the hands of man can be either beneficially or oppressively used. Some of the cruel practices associated with quarantine when the ætiology of disease was little understood in medieval times are exemplified by the way in which lepers were segregated, whereas the modern beneficial practices are illustrated by the international (sea and air-port) sanitary conventions.

As Dr. C[illegible]s in his illuminating f[illegible] it is a sad comm[illegible] [illegible]fession in In[illegible] an[illegible] P[illegible]

the lay person writing it that the book is more easily readable and understandable to the lay public. It must be stated that the author has succeeded in writing a very readable, informative and interesting book. One has no hesitation in recommending the inclusion of a study of this type in the curricula of schools. The message conveyed by the book should also reach the largest possible public so far as may be in their own languages.

The last chapter entitled "No longer the distant glow" is an extraordinarily well written chapter on which the author deserves to be congratulated. The author forcefully brings out the fact that there has been an enormous saving of life as a result of the control of epidemic diseases. The daily loss of human lives in our country from various causes is given. Even here, we see the loss due to other diseases is very much greater than that due to the epidemic diseases though the latter is spectacular.

The dismal state of medical aid in this country is brought out by a comparison of the number of trained personnel available in proportion to the population in comparison with the various countries of the world. But the author draws hope for the future from the examples of Europe and America and especially of Soviet Russia. A very good account is given of the experiment in socialized medicine that the Soviets successfully worked out. It is a far cry indeed from sorcery to socialized medicine.

The view is expressed that socialized medicine adapted to our needs and conditions is the only solution of our task in India, and that health will have to be a central subject directed and planned for the whole country and financed from the resources of the State and from Social Insurance funds. The salient features of socialized medicine are listed; it does not tolerate business or trade medical service and drugs. It has another characteristic feature; it does not distinguish between curative and ... branches of medicines ... vention
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which the medical-man works is that health is to be safeguarded all through the life of every individual. He must be medically supervised from embryo to old age, at home and at work.

It is worth quoting the author: "that our country needs some such scheme, no medical man I have so far met has denied. Some of them, however, feel that the corroding of the conscience of the present generation of medical-men by the profit-motive will present the nation with many obstacles, before the new social values are accepted by the medical fraternity. And yet, without it, all attempts to solve our medical problems are mere stop-gap arrangements bound to be unsatisfactory and hence will fall short of the mark.

The problem is urgent and cannot wait. The world is moving ahead at a terrific pace. Our country must have health."

—*R.M.M.*

"BENARES AND SARANATH (PAST AND PRESENT)"

By PROFESSOR A. S. ALTEKAR (*second edition*) *Culture Publication House, Benares Hindu University. Price Rs.* 1–4–0.

"Benares adorned by Ganges" has been acclaimed by Lord Shankaracharya as the blessed city for salvation; and greater in sanctity than even Heaven. While Benares is the holiest tirthas of the Hindus, Sarnath is the holiest place for the Buddhists being the very birth-place of their religion. In the book under review, the author tries to give to the cultured visitor of the two sacred cities, a brief idea of their past history and achievements as well as their present condition and activities. Any new visitor to these holy places will surely find this publication an invaluable handbook of information.

—*K.C.N.*

"A HINDU JURIST IN THE WEST (ILLUSTRATED)"

By PROFESSOR K. R. S. R. SASTRY, *Allahabad University. Published by the author. Price Rs.* 3.

In this small illustrated book the author, an eminent Jurist, describes the impressions of his cultural trip to London, Oxford, New York, Harward, Yale and Washington. He discusses the questions as to why a Hindu should visit the West and whether there is anything special in the West which is not found in the East. He lays stress on cultural harmony and observes that members of all Nations belong to the same human family. The book is written in a simple style and is interesting to read. The price fixed for the book seems to be high.

—*Y.S.R.*

"IMPERIALISMS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA"

By PROFESSOR D. S. NAG, *with foreword by* DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD—*Published by Hamara Hindoostan Publications, Bombay—Pages* 50. *Price Re.* 1–4–0.

The book is a call to the peoples of South-East Asia to forge and develop a Pan-Asiatic Federation which alone can ensure economic stability in the world based on the raising of the standards of living of the colonial and erst-while subject peoples who, unfortunately, have been, through centuries of imperialist exploitation, constrained to play a role of economic and commercial subservience to the dominating powers.

Prof. Nag also reviews in brief the diplomatic relations of the British, the Dutch and the French in the East and throws light on a rather complicated phase in the progress of the imperialist games played by those nations in the East.

The many errors in printing that have crept in should have been avoided.

—*M.A.K.*

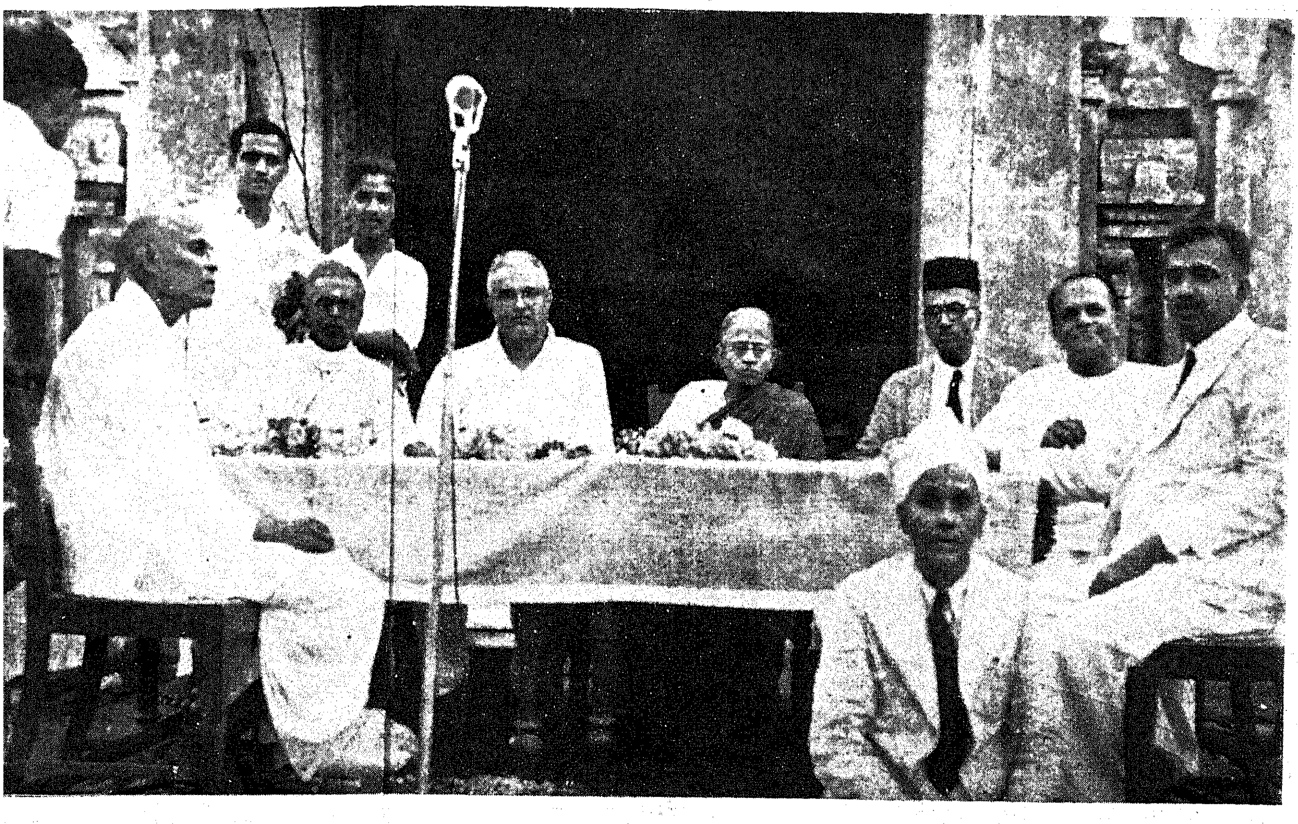
"BUSINESS WEEK"

Published in Madras. Annual subscription Rs. 24

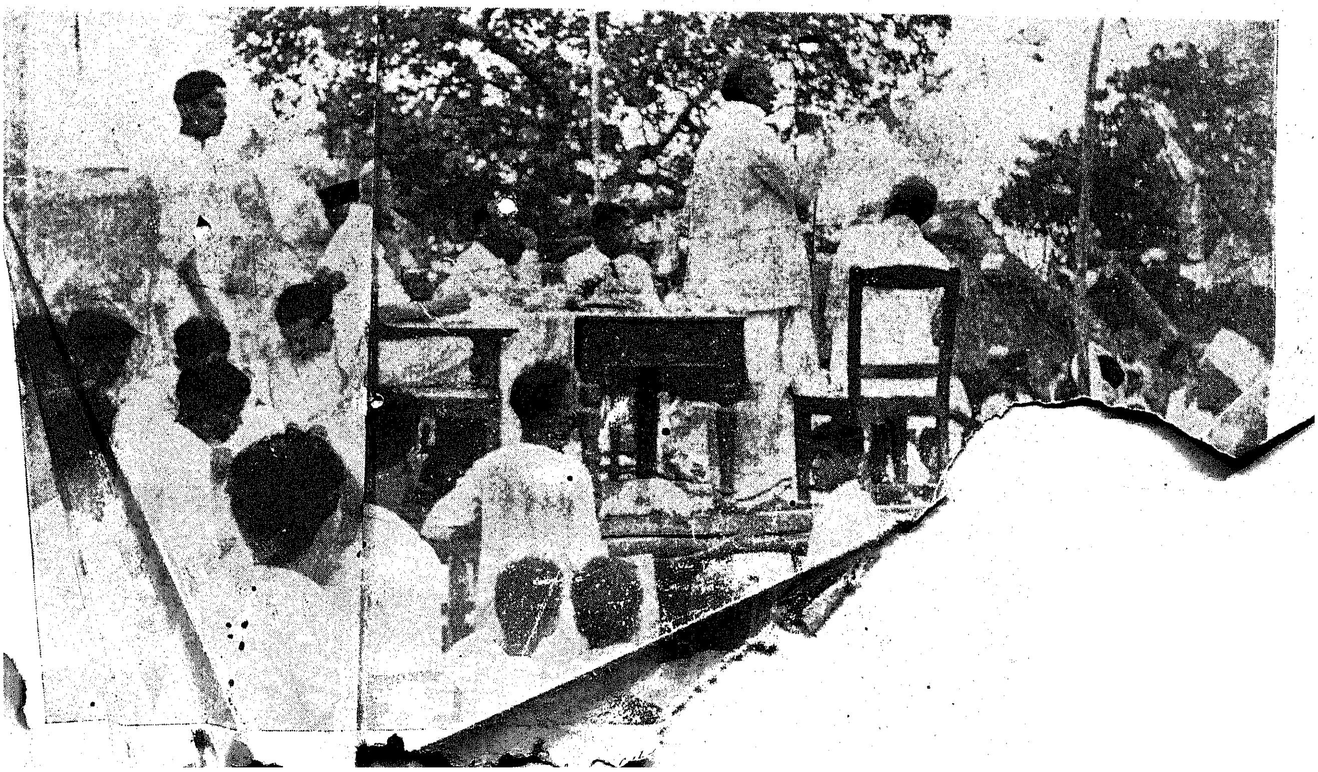
This is a weekly dealing mainly with business matters. Apparently it is intended primarily to cater to the tastes and interests of the business class. The weekly contains a number of articles on a variety of subjects interesting to all.

—*T.K.G.*

Prohibition Propaganda in Full Blast



Prohibition propaganda meeting at Nochikuppam, San Thome, Madras



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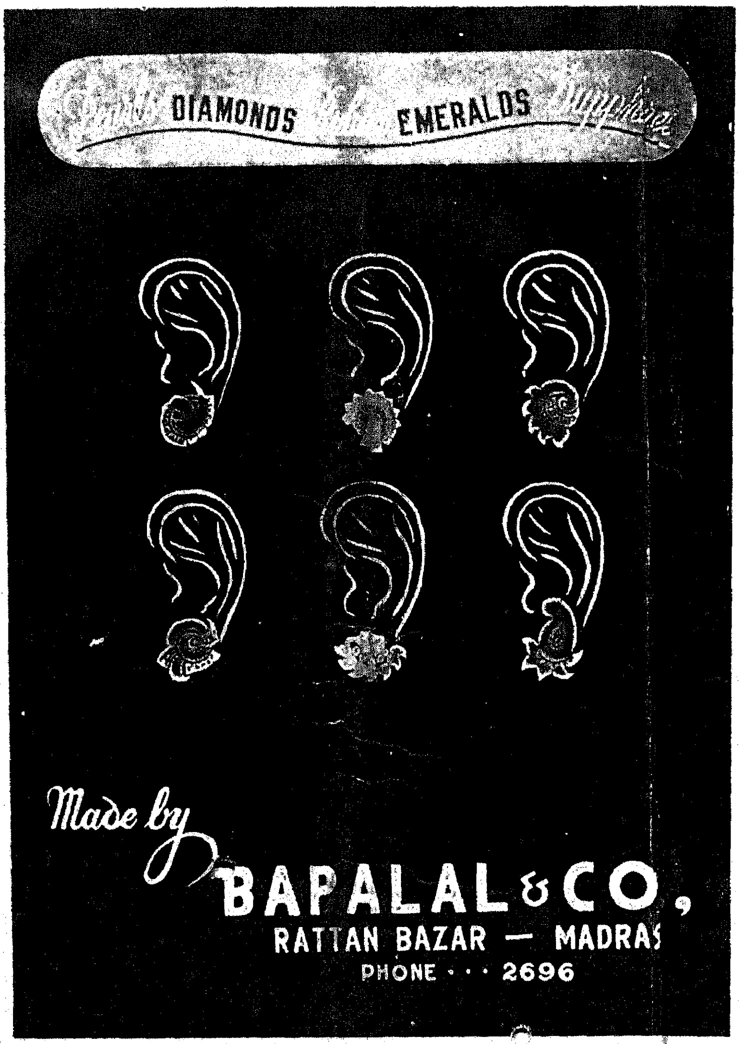

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